

EC to recognise Croatia and Slovenia today as UN officers begin peacekeeping role

Yugoslav war leaves a million uprooted

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

ALL 12 European Community countries are expected to recognise the independence of Slovenia and Croatia today, acknowledging the disintegration of Yugoslavia after a six-month civil war that has left more than six thousand dead and uprooted a million people.

The joint decision comes the day after an advance party of military officers arrived in Serbia and Croatia to prepare the ground for a 10,000-strong UN peacekeeping force. But Bosnia-Herzegovina and Macedonia will have to wait for recognition.

The EC move will be seen as a diplomatic triumph for Germany, which had already recognised Slovenia and Croatia but agreed to delay implementation until today while the other Community members sought guarantees on human rights, democracy and minorities. But France,

which had opposed recognition of Croatia, said: "This is not a victory for Germany, but a victory for the 12."

João de Deus Pinheiro, the foreign minister of Portugal, which holds the EC presidency, also hailed the joint decision in the face of serious doubts among diplomats over whether the Community could overcome divisions on which republics to recognise and when. Of Bosnia and Macedonia, Senhor Deus Pinheiro said: "There are no questions that are impossible to solve, but there are some points that need to be clarified before their recognition can be implemented."

Greece has argued that Macedonia should change its name if it is to become independent. Greece's northern province is also called Macedonia and Athens fears that a neighbouring independent state of the same name could conceal future territorial claims.

As EC foreign ministers met in Lisbon to consider recognition of the republics yesterday, the first military officers arrived in Yugoslavia to pave the way for the UN's "blue helmet" troops. Twenty-five officers, including British, arrived by coach in Croatia. More members of the group, drawn from 18 nations including Britain, will accompany a convoy of equipment from Italy today, creating a 50-strong advance party.

The officers, led by Colonel John Wilson from Australia, will provide communications between military headquarters of the Yugoslav army in Belgrade and Croatia's national guard in Zagreb. The unarmed officers will be stationed at 11 troublespots as well as the two capitals. They will not venture into frontline areas, although later armed



Force for peace: Major Abdul Hafiz, centre, from Bangladesh with his unarmed group of UN peacekeepers on arrival in Zagreb

groups peacekeepers will go to regions where the fighting has been fiercest.

Britain is expected to contribute several hundred personnel, but will not send an infantry battalion, yet. The first consignment of British troops will include soldiers skilled in logistics, transport and communications. Medical teams will also be sent.

The observers now arriving include three British majors from the UN mission on the Iraq-Kuwait border.

The composition of the full peacekeeping force - the first to be deployed in mainland Europe - will depend on the recommendations of Cyrus Vance, the UN envoy to Yugoslavia, when he has received reports from the advance party. Officials expect it to be based around 4,000 infantry troops being offered by France. The force will probably move into place within the next five weeks and the Foreign Office said yesterday that it was likely to be a long-running commitment. It was possible, therefore, that Britain might at some stage be asked to contribute combat troops.

As the UN was sending military staff to the trouble

zone, its refugee commission disclosed the vast human cost of the conflict. A million people had been uprooted, creating Europe's biggest refugee problem since the second world war.

Both Serbs and Croats had fled their homes, either out of fear or because they had been destroyed. Thousands had crossed the borders into Hungary, Austria, Germany and Italy, while others sought refuge in Croatia, Serbia and Bosnia. Many had been accommodated in private homes, but their hosts had thought they were offering shelter for just a short time and could no longer cope.

The refugees used ferries, tractors and any other form of transport they could find to escape the fighting, but the absence of tent cities means their plight has not attracted world attention. "The impact is tremendous," Judith Kumlin, the UN's chief of mission in Belgrade, said yesterday. "We are used to seeing people coming from nothing and going to nothing, but these are middle-class Europeans. The psychological trauma for them is enormous."

Croatia mission, page 7

UN doubts Iraq nuclear claims

BY JAMES BONE AND IAN MURRAY

IRAQI officials showed a UN team the debris of what they said were ring magnets and centrifuge casings imported from Germany before the Gulf war. But the inspectors voiced doubts that Iraq would have destroyed all its centrifuge components which are difficult to obtain. It also emerged that Western companies, including five in Germany, supplied Iraq with much of the equipment needed for building nuclear weapons. Bonn has started criminal proceedings against suspected companies.

The German foreign ministry confirmed yesterday that investigators had passed on details of the sales to the UN, which is trying to locate and destroy all the Iraqi installations concerned.

One year on, pages 10-11

Sleepless nights sap Bush

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush's ageing body is beginning to protest. Looking pale, Mr Bush acknowledged yesterday that his 12-day trip to the Pacific rim had had a "terrible downside". He had been unable to sleep, he said, since his return last Friday.

Coming from one so proud of being in a state of perpetual motion, that was quite an admission. At the best of times Mr Bush sleeps only six hours a night, rising on weekdays at 5am. This bout of sleeplessness comes as he is recovering from the exhaustion and stomach flu that caused his Tokyo collapse.

Jobless warning, page 9
First hurdle, page 14
Leading article, page 15

Major shrugs off tax challenge by Kinnock

BY ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN Major yesterday underlined his readiness to consider further tax cuts as he emerged the victor yesterday in the first election year exchanges with Neil Kinnock in the Commons.

The Chancellor is currently considering tax cuts in the March budget, and Mr Kinnock appeared to have scored when he claimed that the prime minister had said, of such tax cuts in a Harare interview in October for the *Today* newspaper, that they "would be unwise, would create problems and would be fool's gold". The Labour leader challenged Mr Major to say that he still stuck by those beliefs, allegedly expressed at last year's Commonwealth conference.

But Mr Major, clearly prepared, dismissed the Opposition leader's claim by saying that he had not applied the words to tax cuts, but to the idea of stimulating the economy with premature interest rate cuts. Mr Kinnock persisted in his claim despite the prime minister's assertion that he had been misled.

To the delight of Tory MPs, Mr Major asserted that not only had he not said what was being alleged by Mr Kinnock

THE first opinion poll of the new year to put the Conservatives ahead of Labour is published in today's *Guardian*. The ICM poll, conducted last Friday and Saturday, puts support for the Conservatives at 42 per cent (up 3 points), Labour at 41 per cent (down 1) and the Liberal Democrats at 12 per cent (down 2). The poll suggests that the Conservative attack against Labour taxation policies is beginning to pay dividends.

but that he had explained in Harare, "that if there was a prospect of tax reductions we would take them and give people the opportunity to spend their own money in their own interests".

Labour then circulated the full interview, as printed in the newspaper, including a passage quoting the prime minister as saying: "It would also mean tax cuts in the March Budget, just before the election. It is possible to do that but it is unwise."

But Downing Street countered by issuing extracts from the verbatim transcript of the interview, filed routinely by the Central Office of Informa-

tion. These do not record any such words and make it plain that the "fool's gold" expression had referred to any artificial stimulation of a mini economic boom.

In the full version, the prime minister rules out such action as "economic tricks", and promises, "I am not going to manipulate the economy just for short-term purposes". In response to another question on tax, in the same interview, he says: "If there is the prospect of tax reductions we will take them and we will give people a better opportunity to spend their own money in their own way in their own interests on their own families."

Although Mr Kinnock then grumbled that Mr Major should have challenged the *Today* version of the interview earlier, MPs reckoned that the prime minister was the clear victor in the exchanges.

Letters, page 15

Late BR to pay up

Rail passengers returning from new year holidays and excursions who arrived fuming at Exeter more than two hours late yesterday that they will get compensation.

British Rail said it would give free travel vouchers and repay local taxi fares, together worth thousands of pounds. Page 2
Leading article, page 15

Gorbachev job

Mikhail Gorbachev, three weeks after being forced to resign as president of the now defunct Soviet Union, returned to work yesterday as head of a Moscow-based think-tank. Page 7

Costly leave

A married Royal Navy helicopter observer, who smuggled a woman into his cabin on board HMS Ark Royal after going ashore at a port in Virginia, was fined £500 and severely reprimanded at a court martial hearing yesterday. Page 3

BCCI end

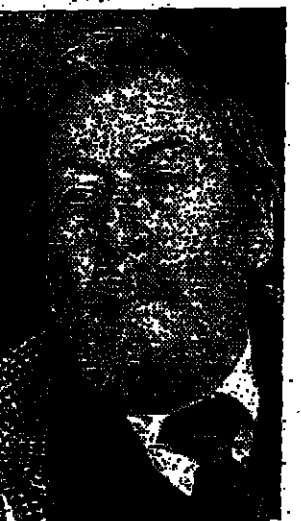
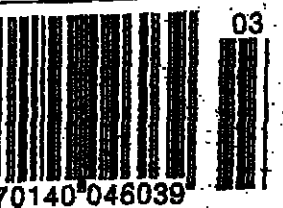
The Bank of Credit and Commerce International, the world's biggest banking failure, was formally wound up at the High Court in London. Page 21
BCCI tragedy, page 25

Extra cover

The England cricket team have called up Neil Mallender, aged 30, the Somerset bowler, as cover for the first Test match against New Zealand because of an injury to David Lawrence of Gloucestershire. Page 34

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Employers seeking chief executives, managers and other senior staff are advertising tomorrow in *The Times* 16-page appointments section, circulated in Britain.



Osborne: unperformed play to be published

Jimmy Porter... still fuming after 35 years

BY BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

AFTER 35 years of sulking in secret, Jimmy Porter is about to emerge from his lair. His fangs may be yellowed but his bite is almost more unforgiving than in 1956, when he first started chewing up people.

Debut, John Osborne's sequel to *Look Back in Anger*, was to open at Liverpool Playhouse in November. The production collapsed after a disagreement between the author and his leading actor, Peter O'Toole, who felt that the role of the ageing anti-hero needed cutting. But next week Faber publishes the text in all its unreconstructed ire.

Jimmy has prospered since he ran a sweet stall in Black Country obscurity. Like his creator, he now lives in some style in the shires. Could there conceivably be parallels between his small-talk and the views of the playwright?

On his ex-wife: "Alison looked stark-

ling to me last time I saw her - with a pack of nancy friends hot from some runaway gala for Aids Concern. I don't think old Mummy would have been too happy to see her fawned on by so many strutting sodomites. The old rhino might have roared a bit."

On pop concerts: "Have you noticed how they wave, like fields of rape, limp and twitching like bleary puppies. Numb and gormless, they wave, side to side, arms stretched up, worshipping, fixed on the choreographic grunt... Numbness was never so fine, so fluent."

On Britain: "I am a contraband; a young couple waiting 12 hours at the airport; I am a baggage handler on strike; I am a survey, an infrastructure, a mortgage wrapped about my inability to have an orgasm; I am a government statistic, a gymslip mother; I am a Walkman with an inalienable right to hope and happiness and rights..."

On his own end: "If I am propped up

on state pillows, being cathetised and patronised by some hell's angel of check-out mercy, young Nurse Noylene, I shall rise like some last-gasp Lazarus of a bygone smoke-filled civilisation: I shall rise from my bed of unheeding profligacy and if any frowning gauleiter breathes their concern or care over my fetid and exhausted form, or any smarmy dietitian dares lay her menu of lower-middle-class mush, asking old Mr Porter what putrid filth he'd like to pass through his National Health dentures; if any of these creeping refuse collectors should refer to me as a senior citizen, they will get one last almighty smack in their sanitised mealy -ing mouth."

Then, no doubt, Jimmy will light the very last Turkish cigarette a malign Europe has allowed him - just like the Osborne whom readers of *The Times* letter page have come to know and love.

Come back, Jimmy, page 12

TODAY IN THE TIMES

DON'T TELL...



Who was really with Marilyn Monroe just before she died? Is there anyone who was not involved in the plot to kill Kennedy? Joe Joseph on conspiracy theories Page 13

DO TELL...



Wendy Reeves, the "champagne sex kitten", says she could never say no to Sir Winston Churchill. His former bodyguard reveals the truth to the Diary Page 14

TARRED



The Gulf war's effect on the environment was reported worldwide. One year on, *The Times* looks at the conflict's impact on the Middle East - and on news reporting Pages 10, 11



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SOOTHES PAIN. FIGHTS INFECTION.

BR compensates travellers delayed by new year breakdown



Rail payout: Ken Kallis, transport chairman for Devon, at Exeter station

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

RAIL passengers returning from new year holidays and excursions, who arrived at Exeter more than two hours late from London, were told yesterday that they will receive compensation. British Rail disclosed that it will give free travel vouchers and repay local taxi fares, together worth thousands of pounds.

The compensation, which will give a big boost to the government's proposed citizen's charter, is for passengers trapped on three trains to the West Country on January 2. The 16.15 Network SouthEast express to Exeter via Basingstoke, Andover, Salisbury and Yeovil broke down near Overton, Hampshire. Two other trains behind it were severely delayed as passengers

were diverted. BR's decision to invite claims follows a letter to Sir Bob Reid, its chairman, from Paddy Ashdown, leader of the Liberal Democrats, who received complaints from his constituents in Yeovil, Somerset.

Mr Ashdown said: "I am very glad BR has recognised its responsibility to passengers over the horrendous problems they endured that night. The compensation will help in some way, although not everyone will realise it is available."

Geoff Penn, aged 69, a retired civil servant and chairman of Yeovil Rail Action Group, said that the route on which the delays occurred was suffering from continuing use of "completely worn out locos" and rolling stock built between 1967-8, with two million miles on the clock. BR policy to look at

individual cases and compensate is right."

BR paid £7 million compensation to passengers last year for delays and cancellations. A spokesman said: "We have a moral, if not a legal, responsibility to get people to their destinations and compensate them particularly if they miss their last train or a connection. If customers have any problems, we encourage them to write."

Tens of thousands of commuters had their rail journey home disrupted last night after a power failure at Waterloo station in London. British Rail said that the station was evacuated and closed for 50 minutes just before the start of the peak rush hour due to "a high voltage feeder cable failure".

Leading article, page 15

Robbery jailing quashed on appeal

A fourth man convicted and jailed on "supergrass" evidence provided by the disbanded West Midlands serious crimes squad was freed by the Court of Appeal yesterday (Richard Ford writes).

Valentine Cooke, aged 28, of Birmingham, who had been implicated in five armed robberies and attempted robbery, had his convictions declared "unsafe and unsatisfactory" by three appeal court judges. A ten-year sentence imposed in 1989 was set aside.

The decision follows the quashing in October last year of the convictions of three other men implicated by Paul Jarvis, an informer to the discredited squad, in two separate trials in Birmingham.

Daniel Lynch, jailed for ten years for serious crime, and Gerald and Ronald Gall, jailed for three and two years respectively for their alleged roles in the shooting of a night-club doorman, were cleared by the appeal court.

Yesterday, Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, sitting with Mr Justice Kennedy and Mr Justice Jowitt, said that the informer's evidence implicating Mr Cooke was unsupported and his convictions could not be upheld. However, the judges refused to intervene in the case of Samuel Corcoran, aged 30, of Birmingham who had been implicated in the shooting of the night-club doorman.

Still awaiting appeal hearings are Michael Bromell, serving a seven-year sentence for wounding, and Glen Lewis, of Wolverhampton, jailed for ten years for robbery.

Editor to take university post

Peter Scott, the editor of *The Times Higher Education Supplement* since 1976, is to become a professor of education at Leeds University next September. The appointment, to develop the university's work in further and higher education, was announced as the paper celebrated its 1,000th edition.

Sir Edward Pickering, chairman of *The Times Supplement*, said that Mr Scott had established the paper as the leading authority on higher education in Britain. "His contribution to the paper's progress has been immense, and he goes to this important new appointment with the good wishes of his colleagues and friends."

Marquess 'too ill for court'

The Marquess of Bristol failed to attend court to answer four drug charges at Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, yesterday because, his barrister said later, he was being treated at a London clinic for a drug-related condition.

Lord Bristol, aged 37, of Ickworth Park, Horringer, Suffolk, was accused of two offences of possessing drugs and a further two of possession with intent to supply. The case was adjourned for a month when Lord Bristol would be fit to attend, the court was told. Bail was renewed.

Anti-Nazi group relaunched

The Anti-Nazi League was relaunched at the House of Commons yesterday amid warnings that followers of Adolf Hitler were making significant advances again in Europe.

Peter Hain, above, Labour MP for Neath, a founder of the organisation in the late 1970s, said that the relaunch was set off by the revival of the British National Party and its plans to field more than 50 candidates in the next election, the rise of Nazi and right-wing extremist activity in Europe and the increase in racial attacks in Britain.

CORRECTION

Our Review of 1991 published on 28 December misquoted Gerald Rafter's comment to the Institute of Directors in April. He did not say that Rafter's Group's profits came from selling people what they wanted. "Total crap," that description was light-heartedly reserved for one gift item and not to the jewellery or any other item sold by Rafter. We apologise to Gerald Rafter.

Minister hails reform of NHS

Continued from page 1
November last year. The number waiting for two years fell by 35 per cent to 32,810 in the same period. Only one region, Trent, showed a rise — of 7 per cent — in the number of patients waiting more than a year. Mr Waldegrave was confident that the remaining patients on two-year lists would be treated by April this year, when the two-year maximum guarantee promised in the patient's charter takes effect.

The report from the NHS management executive had "confounded the sceptics" who had said that the reforms would never work. "In fact they are working and working well: delivering real benefits to patients and increasingly attracting the loyalty, as well as the commitment, of staff," he said.

Duncan Nichol, the NHS chief executive, admitted yesterday that he had intervened a number of times to "act as broker" between regions, districts and hospitals to ensure that funds totalling more than £200 million, between 0.5 and 1 per cent of the NHS hospital budget, were rapidly allocated to places which were running into difficulties after treating more patients than agreed.

Mr Nichol maintained yesterday that the reserve funds would be sufficient to ensure that all hospitals would balance their books by the end of the year. "This is the first year for many years that this can be said," he said. "To be able to treat many more patients while remaining on target financially is a considerable achievement. It shows that NHS staff at all levels have reacted well to the introduction of the reforms and are making them work."

Robin Cook, the Labour health spokesman, immediately disputed Mr Waldegrave's claims that the reforms had led to record treatment levels. Mr Cook produced figures from two years ago that showed similar increases in patient activity. His figures, which were not disputed by Mr Nichol, showed that the number of in-patients treated rose by 1.3 per cent in 1989-90, compared with a projected 1.5 per cent this year.

The British Medical Association was also unimpressed by the report, saying that it "makes no attempt to show whether the increases are reflected equally in trust and non-trust hospitals".

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Sell-off may divide coalfields between two companies

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S coal industry could be sold off as two companies, one amalgamating the Scottish and Yorkshire coalfields and the other the Welsh and Nottinghamshire pits.

The proposal has emerged in Whitehall as one of the options for the privatisation of the industry, a central plank of the next Conservative election manifesto. John Wakeham, the energy secretary, who will leave the Commons at the general election, has already made plain that he will leave the decision on how the industry will be broken up to his successor.

At the same time ministers are privately suggesting that steep falls in electricity prices could come next year as the government paves the way for the sale of the coal industry.

Confidential government forecasts are said to suggest reductions of up to 5 per cent for domestic consumers as a result of the new contract about to be negotiated between British Coal and its main customers, the electricity generators PowerGen and National Power.

Ministers say the much-increased productivity of the coal industry and the threat to it of the growing imports of

foreign coal means that British Coal will be forced to offer competitive prices to the generators. They foresee reductions for industrial and domestic users of 3 to 5 per cent, or more than 5 per cent if they are concentrated purely on domestic consumers.

By the time British Coal is sold, some three years into the next parliament if the Conservatives win the election, it will be further slimmed down because of the new demands on it to be competitive resulting from the contract negotiations, ministers believe.

As a result they expect it to be an attractive proposition for buyers, particularly as the government will be taking over the obligation of paying the pensions of workers who have already left the industry and subsistence claims resulting from the days when the industry was in the public sector. "It will be a clean purchase," one senior minister said yesterday.

It is clear that three main options are emerging from studies being conducted within the energy department. One is for British Coal to be sold off as one large business; the second is for a British Coal with separate Welsh and Scottish subsidiaries; and the third is for the industry to be split into two, with the Scottish and Yorkshire coalfields in one company, and the Nottinghamshire and Welsh in another.

Senior ministers say that the electricity privatisation means that the coal industry will be compelled to offer a competitive deal for the new contract, which starts in April 1993.

Foreign imports have steadily increased through the Eighties. In 1987 Britain imported 9.9 million tonnes; last year the figure was 16.9 million tonnes. With 80 per cent of British Coal's output going to the generators the industry may have to reduce its prices if it is to beat off the foreign competition.

Journalists seek injunction on pension deductions

By TIM JONES

JOURNALISTS at the *Daily Mirror* are to seek a high court injunction preventing any part of their salary being deducted by the company into the group occupational pension scheme.

The move, by the *Mirror's* National Union of Journalists branch, comes after the disclosure by the new trustees of the pension scheme that there would be no money for group workers and former employees with deferred pension rights unless some £400 million plundered by Robert Maxwell can be recovered.

Since learning the news from a bulletin posted on a blackboard in the foyer of the *Mirror's* Holborn Circus office, the newspaper has been thrown into turmoil as staff

try to come to terms with the prospect of retirement without a pension. Some workers who have served the paper for 20 years stand to lose more than £80,000.

Yesterday, as they produced their newspaper, the journalists fell into two camps, the pessimists who said that at a late time in life they would have to start all over again and the optimists who expressed faith that the proposed management buy-out would repair the damage. The optimists swapped photocopies of a *Financial Times* report which said that the true deficit was only £250 million which could be put right over a number of years.

Terry Pattinson, the paper's industrial editor, said: "My dreams of retiring when I was about 60 have vanished into thin air. I have been on the *Mirror* for more than 16 years and estimate I must have lost about £50,000 from the pension fund. It is quite a shock to realise I have been putting money into a holed bucket which was itself going over Niagara falls."

"We are considering court action to prevent the company from deducting from our salaries 6 per cent every month."

Another senior *Mirror* journalist said: "I am sure everything will be alright. The *Mirror* has always looked after its own people."

No right to silence, page 14



What's up, cop? Traffic policeman Steve Henningham alongside Bugs Bunny and a toy Volkswagen Beetle at the Harrogate International Toy Fair yesterday. The fair, which closes tomorrow, attracted 600 companies.

'Private' legal aid urged

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government should provide legal aid for people to pursue disputes before private mediators because the courts are no longer adequate, the Adam Smith Institute says today. They are inefficient, overcrowded and the time has come to develop private ways of resolving civil disputes which will be speedier and cheaper, it says in a report.

The Institute calls for the Government to back the development of "alternative dispute resolution", or ADR, which it says gives the public the service it demands in the private sector.

ADR, in which parties take their dispute before a private mediator, is just starting in Britain, the report says. In America however the practice can resolve disputes in six months instead of the usual two years of public court time. Costs are also much lower.

Yesterday the Lord Chancellor's department said officials were still considering the subject. The Lord Chancellor has on occasions suggested that alternative ways of settling disputes should be examined.

"Judgement Day — The Case for Alternative Dispute Resolution" by Adam Thierer. From the Adam Smith Institute, 23 Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BL. £17.

Leading article, page 15

Judges shun local consultative role

JUDGES are refusing to participate at a local level with the government's initiative on the criminal justice system (Frances Gibb and Richard Ford write).

The criminal justice consultative council, which holds its first meeting at the Home Office today, was a key proposal of Lord Justice Woolf in his 1990 report on prison riots. The council is intended to be a national forum bringing together for the first time all the parts of the criminal justice system and to promote better understanding, co-operation and co-ordination.

It had been hoped in some official quarters that a senior judge would have chaired the committee but that position will be taken by the permanent secretary at the Home Office. Although there are two judges, Lord Justice Parquharson and Judge Fisher, on the national committee, there will be none on the area committees which will mirror the work of the main committee at local level.

The government had hoped that the judiciary would take a more positive attitude. Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, believes that involving judges in possible formulation of policy, alongside police and government officials, would compromise judicial independence.

While acknowledging judicial concern, the Home Office argues that the government would benefit from the expertise of the judiciary.

It had been hoped in some official quarters that a senior judge would have chaired the committee but that position will be taken by the permanent secretary at the Home Office. Although there are two judges, Lord Justice Parquharson and Judge Fisher, on the national committee, there will be none on the area committees which will mirror the work of the main committee at local level.

The commission also proposes that husbands accused of rape should have anonymity to avoid possible identification of the wife. It says there is no social or legal justification for immunity from prosecution.

Rape within Marriage (The Law Commission: Law Com. no 205, Stationery Office, £8.50)

Modern times, page 6

The circuit judges have argued that because of the practical difficulties of bringing a prosecution for rape where husbands are still living with wives, they should still be immune from charges in these cases.

The commission also proposes that husbands accused of rape should have anonymity to avoid possible identification of the wife. It says there is no social or legal justification for immunity from prosecution.

The commission also makes clear that in spite of opposition from the Council of Circuit Judges, husbands should be covered by the law of rape whether or not they are living with their wives.

Crown jewels will be given a more luxurious setting

By ALAN HAMILTON

SO MANY visitors want to see the crown jewels, the world's most valuable set of rocks, that they are to be moved from their subterranean strongroom in the Tower of London to a location more able to handle the crowds.

Such are the queues to catch a glimpse of the Imperial state crown and the other regalia, and so bad the tempers in the crawling crocodile that shuffles past the display in its dimly-lit basement, that the Historic Royal Palaces Agency, which

runs the tower, has appointed consultants and an architect to design a better setting.

Colonel Hamish Mackinlay, deputy governor of the tower, said yesterday that the Jewel House, where the regalia has been displayed since 1967, had been designed to handle up to 8,000 visitors a day, but that numbers were regularly double that. In 1990 the tower, the most popular paid attraction in Britain, handled 2.3 million visitors. Because of the Gulf war and other factors, numbers fell during 1991 to 1.9 million, but

business was expected to recover and to expand.

The most likely location for a new display was on the ground floor of the Waterloo block of the tower, Col Mackinlay said. "The present Jewel House was a great design in its time, but it has become overloaded."

At present visitors face long queues to enter the Jewel House, before joining a slow procession which offers little opportunity to study the jewels at length. Visitors may leave the queue and stand in a gallery at the rear, but the displays

are then too far away to be seen in detail. "One of the problems is that the wardens have to keep people on the move all the time: this can lead to friction," Col Mackinlay said.

Before the Jewel House was built the display was housed in the nearby Wakefield Tower, but the ever-increasing number of visitors, who now pay £6 a head to see all the tower's attractions, made a move essential. Revenue from admissions is estimated at more than £11.5 million a year.

The tower hopes to have the jewels on display in their new home

in the spring of 1994. Until then they would remain on show as normal, except for the traditional four-week closure in January when they are cleaned and maintained.

Moving the jewels, which are too valuable to be insured, has raised fears for their security, but only one thief has ever got his hands on them. In 1671 Captain Blood, an Irish rogue, made off with them, but he had not got more than a few yards when he was apprehended and tackled, and the crown of England went rolling ignominiously down the gutter of a City street.

Woman attacked as rapist on prison leave fails to return

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A CONVICTED rapist with a history of sexual assaults on women has failed to return to Leyhill open prison, near Bristol, after a weekend on home leave.

Avon and Somerset police took the unusual step yesterday of naming Trevor Hanson, aged 47, after a young woman was attacked at knife-point in Bristol on Monday evening. Hanson, from Halifax, West Yorkshire, was serving a life sentence imposed 20 years ago for raping a girl aged 18 near Leeds.

The search for Hanson began after an attack on the woman, aged 23, in a car park adjoining the Holiday Inn in central Bristol. She was returning to her car when a man spoke to her.

She became suspicious and tried to get into the car but the man grabbed her by the throat, pushed her into the car, produced a table knife

and threatened to kill her. Detective Constable Sean Dunne, who praised the woman for fighting back, said that she "struggled, shouted, screamed and hollered. She did really well and a man came running to her aid. Her attacker made off". He said that the police



Hanson: police say that he is dangerous

wished to interview Hanson because of fears for public safety. "We consider he is very dangerous."

Hanson is white, with cropped greying brown hair. He is medium build and has a day's growth of beard. He was wearing faded blue jeans, a pale blue cotton anorak and soft-soled shoes.

Nick Wall, the governor of Leyhill, declined to comment on individual cases. He said: "A number of prisoners are allowed on home leave up to six times a year provided they meet certain criteria. All prisoners who come to Leyhill have been vetted as suitable for open conditions."

Dawn Primarolo, Labour MP for Bristol South, has written to Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, asking why Hanson was allowed home visits. "Several extremely serious questions need to be asked," she said. "Why was this man put in an open prison in the first place?"

Jonathan Sayed, Conservative MP for Bristol East, said: "To allow this man out was a mistake, an error of judgment by the prison authorities. He was jailed for life and he should be kept in jail for life."

The Home Office said that Hanson was on three-days home leave and was due to return to the prison on Monday evening. "He failed to return and is now posted as unlawfully at large."

Hanson has a history of sex attacks in Yorkshire, including one on a schoolgirl aged 15. In the late 1960s and early 1970s he carried out a series of attacks in and around Huddersfield. He repeatedly struck within weeks of being released from prison after serving sentences for attempted rape and robbery with violence.

At his trial at Leeds Crown Court in January 1971, he admitted the rape and another charge of attempted rape and indecent assault. The court was told he had three previous convictions involving women.

Last night a man was helping police with their enquiries.



Life line: Helen Bennett, a nurse at St Thomas' Hospital, south London, with ten-day-old Rebecca Hobbs, who weighs 3lb 7oz. The hospital yesterday started a £5 million campaign to fund research into premature birth.

Speaking at the launch, the Duchess of York, whose obstetrician, Anthony Kenney, is a consultant at the hospital, said: "Too many babies' first experience of life is an incubator and we would like to change this by concentrated re-

search." She said that the campaign, which has as its mascot a streetwise baby named Tommy, "is based on people having fun, which is the particular element which appeals to me".

Campaign organisers will ask people around Britain to hold "potty" fund-raising events. Dennis the Menace has also been enlisted for the cause, which aims to collect £3.5 million for The Baby Fund Research Trust and £1.5 million to improve mother and baby facilities at St Thomas'. The duchess

met Freddie Simon, aged five months, who spent the first three weeks of his life in an incubator at the hospital.

As he slept peacefully on her shoulder, his mother, Georgina, said her first baby had been stillborn and that Freddie had been born by Caesarean section when a scan showed that he had stopped growing at 32 weeks.

Nigel Havers and Maureen Lipman, the actors, and politicians were also at the launch.

Connery sues over 'coward' report

JASON Connery, the actor, yesterday asked a High Court jury in London to award him damages over a newspaper report that called him a coward who would rather kill himself than fight for his country.

The story about the son of the actor Sean Connery appeared on his 28th birthday, January 11 last year, the eve of the Gulf war.

Mr Connery, of King's Road, Chelsea, west London, listened as his counsel, George Carman, QC, told Mr Justice Drake that the story in *The Sun* headlined "I couldn't fight in Gulf says 007 son" caused him "enormous distress".

Mr Connery, who has played Robin of Sherwood and Ian Fleming, the creator of James Bond, is seeking "very substantial" libel damages over the "nasty and vicious" attack in which he was quoted as saying he would rather run a mile and bury himself alive than go to war.

The article continued: "I'm a bit of a wimp on the quiet and the whole Gulf situation scares me absolutely to death. I am not the blindly brave gung-ho type at all."

Mr Carman said: "When young men of Jason Connery's age and generation were out there in the desert waiting to fight for their country, he was accused of cowardice — not a conscientious objector, but afraid to fight for his country."

The story also said that his father had served in the Royal Navy. Mr Carman said that one of the article's libellous meanings was that Jason Connery was prepared to undermine the morale of the young men in the Gulf and their families.

"We say it is a deliberate, nasty and vicious attack on a young man's character. It was designed to contrast him with his father, who had indeed served in the RN, to point out he had played heroic roles, and to cause him maximum injury and distress at a time when war was about to break out."

Kevin Mackenzie, the editor of *The Sun*, publishers News Group Newspapers, and journalists Andrew Coulson and Lesley Ann Jones, all deny libel. The hearing continues today.

Navy flier smuggled woman aboard

A MARRIED Royal Navy helicopter observer who smuggled a woman into his cabin aboard HMS Ark Royal after going ashore at a north American port was fined £500 and severely reprimanded at a court martial yesterday.

Lieutenant Stephen Beirne, aged 30, finally admitted the truth to officers after a two-and-a-half hour search of the ship in Mayport, Virginia. Lieutenant Commander Peter Crabtree, for the prosecution, told the hearing in Plymouth, Devon.

In a statement Lt Beirne, of the 820 Naval Air Squadron, admitted that he brought the woman aboard and that she had stayed in his cabin, but he denied having sex with her, although he got on the bed in his boxer shorts and she got on the bed as well, said Lieutenant Commander Penny Melville-Brown, for the defence. They had chatted and smoked.

When searching officers opened the cabin door the girl was "observed by him", the hearing was told. In a panic he denied having a girl aboard.

Lt Beirne, married with three children, pleaded guilty to having a civilian woman on board without reasonable excuse, and to two charges of lying to an officer who questioned him during the search.

Commander Melville-Brown said that Beirne and friends had met some girls in a bar and Beirne had gone to another bar with one of them. "He decided it was time to leave and that the girl went home, but she insisted on seeing the ship."

During a third search of the ship Beirne opened his cabin door in response to a knock and said: "It's a fair cop. Yes, I do have a woman in here." He said he thought he could smuggle the girl off the ship with the next day's visitors. Beirne was not concerned with making a sexual conquest. "This was a married man in a situation which got completely out of control."

The defending officer said that Beirne, a helicopter observer during the Gulf war, had heard his wife was "His family life has been truly shattered."

Officer 'stole book from dead actor'

A CORONER'S officer who collected autographs of the famous stole from the home of Kenneth Williams while the late comedy actor's body lay in the flat, a court was told yesterday.

Roy Bellamy was accused of taking a signed copy of the actor's autobiographical *Back Drops*, to add to his collection. When police searched Mr Bellamy's home in September 1990 they found an extensive display of autographed photos of film and television stars collected by Mr Bellamy and his wife.

Anthony Leonard, for the prosecution, told Southwark crown court that Mr Bellamy, aged 42, coroner's officer for St Pancras, north London, took advantage of his position of trust to steal from the homes he visited of those who were dead.

Mr Williams, a regular star in the *Carry On* comedy films, died in April 1988 and his body was discovered by his mother who lived in the flat next door in Regent's Park, north London. Mr Williams's sister, Patricia Williams, told the court that she had later written to Mr Bellamy thanking him for his kindness at the inquest.

"As Barbara Windsor and I were leaving the court, I was in tears and Barbara was choking back tears and Mr Bellamy asked if we would like to go into an ante-room to compose ourselves before going out," she said. "Mr Bellamy was kind at the in-

quest. I was very grateful to him because I have always stayed in the background whenever possible. I don't go for this publicity."

Mr Bellamy had searched the flat and taken some pills which might have been relevant to the cause of death and a diary kept by Mr Williams. He also picked up a copy of *Back Drops* and put it in his briefcase. Mr Leonard said. The diary and other effects were later returned to Mr Williams's relatives but the copy of his autobiography was never given back.

Earlier, WPC Susan Turner told the court that she saw Mr Bellamy put a copy of the book into his briefcase. She identified the paperback, which had a colour photo of Mr Williams on the cover, as being similar.

Mr Leonard said that while Mr Bellamy was investigating the death of Anne Domelow, an elderly spinster, he also stole stamps from her collection and more than £400 of her pension savings. During his search, he opened a fridge in the woman's bedroom in Hampstead, north London, and offered other officers a chocolate, saying: "It will only go off."

Mr Bellamy, of Chalk Farm, north London, denies stealing the book from the estate of Kenneth Williams in 1988 and two charges of theft from the estate of Miss Domelow in August 1990. The trial continues today.



Laughing away his woes: Mickey Thomas, right, the Wrexham and former Welsh international footballer, being helped yesterday from Wrexham magistrates' court. Cited, after he was released on bail on a charge of distributing counterfeit currency. Thomas, who denies the charge, had returned into custody after misplacing his passport, which he had to surrender under bail conditions, but it was later found.

Stevens will cut heritage red tape

BY SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

JOCELYN Stevens, who takes over the chairmanship of English Heritage on April 1, has indicated that he will initiate a radical overhaul of the organisation, which he sees as inefficient, bureaucratic, not bold enough and overstuffed.

Mr Stevens is rector of the Royal College of Art, where he has transformed the campus and the academic structure. Before he leaves at the end of the summer term, his new £12 million building is to be opened and called the Stevens Building.

He says that the 1,700 English Heritage staff based in London should move to the regions. Money which should be spent on protecting the heritage is being wasted on high West End rents.

Even the English Heritage logo of a crenellated tower will be under threat because it suggests an unapproachable nature, he says. "The image is a very forbidding one, and English Heritage has to be accessible, reaching out, looking as if it really cares about the heritage and protecting it. Instead it's got a reputation for blocking things."

English Heritage, whose

formal title is the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England, was set up in 1983 as a free-standing part of the environment department. In 1986 it took over the responsibilities for historic buildings from the abolished metropolitan county authorities, and this year will help to fund cathedral maintenance.

Since its foundation, it has been chaired by Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, founder of the National Motor Museum in Hampshire. Mr Stevens said: "Edward Montagu has battled hard and valiantly, but he has been fighting against a bureaucracy which spends most of its time producing paper for still more committees. There is a civil service attitude which is about looking after one's own position, and that will have to go."

Mr Stevens said that he would not champion preservation against progress. He plans an exhibition at the Royal College of Art which will question the wisdom of protecting sites which may not be unique at the cost of development and innovation.

Interview, page 12

Benidorm ends chimpanzee abuse

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

ENLIGHTENED self-interest has finally persuaded the local council in Benidorm to join the long-running campaign to rid Spanish holiday resorts of drug-besotted chimpanzees owned by beach photographers by passing a law enabling police to confiscate the animals.

The town has long turned a blind eye to the use of animals as photographers' props, but it has found that, with the Olympic Games coming to Barcelona and Expo to Seville this year, it could no longer afford to ignore the growing pressure of world opinion. So far, however, Benidorm is the only city or town to have passed a specific law against the exploitation of animals, with most of Spain remaining apparently bemused at the concern shown by Britain.

Spain argues that such laws could put many of their most popular local

characters out of business. The Spanish government managed to persuade the European Commission to drop a planned court case which would have condemned it for failing to impose international regulations governing the commercial exploitation of endangered species.

Cyril Rosen, of the International Primate Protection League, which has campaigned for 14 years against alleged Spanish indifference to the feelings or welfare of animals, was both pleased and cynical about the move. "It is about time someone took some action," he said. "The Spanish government managed to persuade the EC that they were doing their best to stop the exploitation of animals such as chimpanzees. They said they had confiscated 30 since 1986, but we know that today at least 150 are being used regularly throughout Spain."

"We will now be renewing our campaign to get British tourists to act as monitors and tell us whenever they see

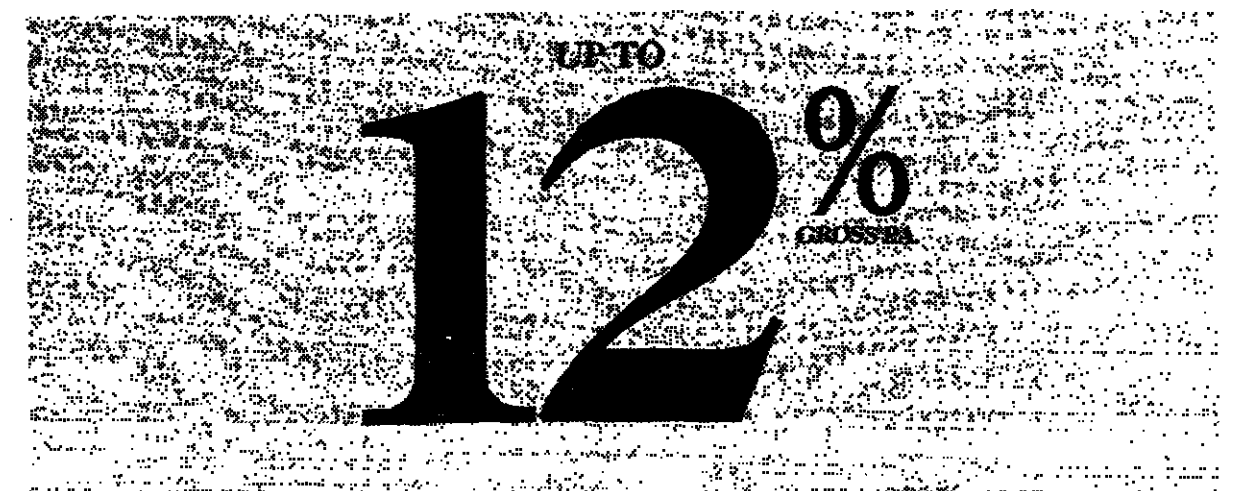
a chimpanzee, or any animal for that matter, being used for commercial gain."

The World Wide Fund for Nature is also stepping up its pressure on the Spanish government through brochures distributed among tour operators. "It is illegal to use an imported animal for commercial gain," a fund official said. "They are ignoring these rules even though they are signatories to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species."

"They managed to persuade the European Commission to drop the case against them and we must now rely on public pressure and the activities of the occasional enlightened community, such as Benidorm, to stamp out this awful practice."

Chimpanzees, imported illegally from Africa, are often drugged by their photographer handlers, have their teeth removed so that they cannot bite, are dressed in children's clothes and beaten to keep them submissive.

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Heritage lost in rape of churches

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THIEVES are sacking churches in one of the greatest rages of Britain's heritage since the Reformation. Church of England clergy were told yesterday. One in four churches in London can expect to be burgled this year and churches throughout the country can expect to lose irreplaceable chalices, carvings, statues and even pews, a seminar on church security was told.

Colin Coxall, assistant commissioner with the City of London police, called for a strategy to tackle the thefts and vandalism. "There are well-established markets for items of value from churches, accompanied by a world increase in prices. The best results can be achieved by involving the church, the police and the community at large."

Insurance claims for arson, theft and malicious damage increased from 5,500 in 1990 to 6,500 last year. The Ecclesiastical Insurance Group, which insures more than 95 per cent of Anglican churches, expects to receive 8,000 claims this year. Of last

year's claims, more than 3,000 involved thefts of over £1.5 million.

Bob Johnson, the group's metropolitan surveyor, said that professional gangs were targeting oak furniture, paintings, coats of arms, computers and anything which could be adapted for secular use. "In some cases there is literally nothing left to steal." At St Botolph's, Aldgate, in the City, a 4ft Victorian cast iron cherub and plinth was taken from the forecourt in November and antiques worth more than £2,000 were taken from St Michael's, Wandsworth Common, southwest London.

The Ven George Cassidy, Archdeacon of London, said: "Many people, especially young people, still feel the church is a symbol of authority. Frustration can show itself by an attack on authority."

Sgt Alan Walker, of Staffordshire police, said: "We are responsible for our heritage for future generations. In 200 years, someone is going to be asking why someone did not do something."



Mourning losses: the Rev Andrew Horton, of St Michael's church, Wandsworth Common, which has lost antiques worth more than £2,000

Nursing and residential care practice

Homes 'drug and shackle' elderly

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE USE of pindown tactics to restrain elderly people has turned residential and nursing homes into "prisons in suburbia", says a report published yesterday.

Old people are routinely being locked up, shackled and drugged by staff to make them easier to look after in homes which charge £200 to £400 a week, it says. Some are strapped into their chairs or barricaded in tight spaces and left for hours at a time.

The report, by Counsel and Care, an independent advisory group for the elderly, says that many old people are restrained to a degree which unacceptably limits their freedom. So many homes keep their front doors permanently locked that they are "little prisons in suburbia".

Jef Smith, the group's general manager, said: "We have heard of people tied to lavatories and left for some minutes or, on occasion, some hours before someone comes to check them. Tying older

people into beds or chairs is still practised. It should be outlawed. We wouldn't permit it for prisoners. We feel it is outrageous that it should be used for frail old people."

The charity, which visits 800 private and voluntary homes in London every year, says that there is widespread use of sedatives and that some homes monitor residents with intercoms and video cameras. Many use chairs with tables that lock across the occupants' laps, and beds with raised cot sides or bedding that can be zipped up.

The report calls on the government to issue clearer guidelines on what forms of restraint are permissible. "If a home has a busy road outside, and a client is liable to wander, there is a real dilemma," Mr Smith said. "We accept that some restraint is needed but feel that physical forms should be outlawed."

Often relatives are concerned about the risk of injury and staff then resort to unacceptable methods to protect the elderly from harm. "It is significant that the Department of Health rushed through guidelines about what staff could and couldn't do concerning young people," Mr Smith said. "We need similar guidelines for elderly people."

He said that "a very wide

swath of nursing and residential homes" used some form of restraint, although no formal survey of its extent had been done. The problem was endemic to residential care, affecting private and local authority homes equally. "It is becoming more of an issue as the people admitted to residential care become more vulnerable," he said. The average age of residents was in the nineties and rising.

Good practice required high staffing levels, a high level of vigilance and care plans to be agreed with relatives spelling out acceptable risks, he said.

But there is a cost. At Compton Lodge, a home run by Hampstead Old People's Housing Trust, emphasis is placed on preserving residents' freedom and relatives are given guidance notes on safety. "We try to maintain high staffing, but our fees tend to be on the high side," Sue Martin, the manager, said. At £291 a week, the fees are £30 a week higher than other voluntary homes and at least £80 a week higher than income support levels.

What if they hurt themselves. Counsel and Care, Twyman House, 16 Bonny Street, London NW1 9PG; ES

Letters, page 15

Staff in dilemma over treatment

THE dilemma facing staff at homes for elderly people was underlined for a training officer with a care and counselling charity when she encountered a resident at a south London home (Jeremy Laurance writes).

"She was a woman in her seventies and she was tied to a chair with a bandage round her waist and another round her ankles. She had been there all morning and there was nothing in the room, not even a TV. She was rocking her chair trying to get out."

Elizabeth Rickaby, of Counsel and Care, was making the charity's annual visit to the home when she saw the woman in a second floor bedroom. "The staff explained that she was confused and liable to wander and they were afraid she might fall down the stairs. She was waiting for a ground floor room. But if she had rocked her chair over, that would have been even more dangerous. If she wanted to go to the loo, she had to bang on the floor. The home was short staffed and that is how they were coping."

Homes use a variety of

techniques to control their residents. Some are subtle, including overheating rooms to induce drowsiness. Others rely on repeat sedatives. In one home an elderly man was kept in his pyjamas to prevent him from leaving the building. Another installed video cameras to spy on residents — until an inspector from the local authority ordered their removal.

Sometimes relatives disagree about the degree of freedom that should be allowed. A social worker visiting her mother, who suffers from Alzheimer's disease, found her asleep, face down in her meal, after she was given drugs to stop her wandering. The front door was locked and she was hemmed in by heavy pine tables to prevent her from getting out of her chair.

The social worker complained that she would like staff to regard her mother's efforts to leave the room "as a sign that she would like to go for a walk". However, her father approved of the restraints because he feared that his wife would injure herself.

Smoking ban nurse resigned

By KERRY GILL

A NURSE who smokes 30 cigarettes a day was driven "demented" after Greater Glasgow Health Board banned smoking at all its premises; an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

May Dryden, aged 63, resorted to snatching an illicit puff in the hospital toilets after the ban began last July. On July 5, in spite of being urged by her superior to reconsider, she resigned.

Mrs Dryden, who said that she had tried acupuncture and hypnotherapy to give up, told the tribunal that she was constructively dismissed from her job at the city's Western Infirmary.

She said that she was "shunned and unbelieving" when she learned of the ruling, delivered as a message in her pay packet. She hoped that it would be forgotten. Previously smokers had been able to smoke in a section of the canteen or in a special room during a morning tea break. The new policy meant that she would have had to smoke in the street, something she never did, and, as she worked in the area, would have had no time to change her clothes.

The health board said that all interested parties were consulted and an overwhelming majority of those who responded agreed with the ban.

The tribunal will give its decision later.

Circus chief had cocaine

Gerry Cottle, the circus head, was fined £500 by magistrates at Chertsey, Surrey, yesterday for possessing cocaine. The court was told that Cottle, aged 46, of Addlestone, Surrey, had 13.2 grammes hidden in his car when he was stopped by police last July.

Cottle said that he had started taking the drug to combat stress. Anthony Bridgen, his solicitor, said: "Mr Cottle is extremely embarrassed by what has happened. It will never happen again."

Cottle, who attended the same school in Wimbledon as John Major, started his circus career as a clown, still walker and fire-eater.

Gun threats

A man who threatened police with an air rifle and a pistol was overpowered by unarmed officers in Andover, Hampshire. No shots were fired but two officers were injured in the struggle.

Explosive alert

The A30 at Honiton, Devon, was sealed off after a van carrying about a ton of explosive crashed into a hedge and turned onto its side.

Ferret attack

Nikola Jackson, aged four months, of Stapleford, Nottinghamshire, was treated for cuts and bites to her face after being attacked in her pram by an escaped ferret.

Pigsty listed

A former pigsty at Zennor, Cornwall, has been declared a Grade II listed building.

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Defence debate told of Soviet dangers

King wields nuclear shield

By Peter Mullan and John Winder

BRITAIN should keep up its nuclear guard because of the chaotic state of the armed forces in the former Soviet republics, Tom King, the defence secretary, said last night.

Mr King also used a Commons debate on defence to accuse Labour of "being split from top to bottom" on the issue of keeping nuclear weapons. He challenged Labour's defence policy as he painted a bleak picture of uncertainty over the control of nuclear weapons in the former Soviet Union. In a direct thrust at Neil Kinnock, Mr King said he "despised" those who pretended they were no longer CND members or who had allowed their membership to lapse.

In the former Soviet Union there was a "dangerously explosive mix" of factors and a sense of alienation and desperation among the armed forces. There were "3,000 nuclear scientists who could help other countries to develop weapons, and at least one group had not been paid in December. Control and responsibility for them appeared to have broken down. The risk of proliferation in this way has never been greater," he said. There was evidence that other countries were "extremely active" in trying

to enlist the scientific services.

Earlier, at prime minister's questions, John Major said it

was "not in our interests to

dispute between the republics over the custody of nuclear weapons continued, while links had been cut between certain military units and their headquarters. Tactical nuclear weapons were located in 13 of the former republics. Although efforts had been made to move these to Russia by July, some were under the control of elements whose morale was "extremely dubious".

Mr King said that even if promises to reduce weapons over the next ten years were made, the republics would still have 20 times more warheads than Britain. The West could not guarantee success in its efforts for a smooth transition. "To be blunt, we do not have a single idea who might be in control in ten years. We do not even have a good idea or any confidence who might be in control in ten weeks from now."

Mr King taunted Labour over its changes on defence policy and said that 16 out of 22 of the shadow cabinet had anti-nuclear backgrounds.

Gerald Kaufman, the shadow foreign secretary, said that Mr King had stood

on his head on nuclear matters and turned a public servant into a public enemy. "This is a government which not only changes its mind on what it regards as basic nuclear defence issues but does not even understand what to do with the nuclear weapons it possesses or seeks to retain. This government cannot be relied on to take the lead in international nuclear arms control discussions, but the Labour government soon to be elected will certainly take that lead."

The nuclear non-proliferation treaty must be extended and the former Soviet republics persuaded to sign it. "Any nation that refuses to sign must not be allowed to buy any nuclear materials at all, even if they are for peacefully peaceful purposes," Mr Kaufman said.

The government was bereft of ideas on the problems, and was nostalgic for the Cold War, and could only mouth its slogans, he said. "Whenever the Tories know that they are facing electoral defeat, they dive head first into the political sewer."

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Gorbachev role, page 7

Labour refuses to turn back the clock for unions

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

A LABOUR government would not reinstate the trade union immunities and privileges of the 1970s, the leadership pledged yesterday as it braced itself for the another wave in the Conservative pre-election campaign.

Tony Blair, the shadow employment secretary, mounted a pre-emptive strike against the planned Tory onslaught by portraying ministers as relics of a bygone age, constantly fighting old battles.

In a forceful statement of Labour's revised stance on industrial relations, which risked alienating left-wing union leaders, Mr Blair said: "No doubt over the coming weeks, after the nonsense on tax and defence, our political opponents will next say Labour will return to the industrial relations law of the Seventies. That is false. There is no turning the clock back: there will be no wholesale repeal of the existing trade union legislation."

"For example, ballots for union

elections, restrictions on mass picketing, will stay. Like companies, unions will be subject to proper legal regulation. Like companies, they will be entitled to fairness within the law, not favours outside it."

"But there can be no group of people outside the cabinet that truly believe that the future of Britain in the Nineties will be seriously decided by re-running the debates of the Seventies," Mr Blair told a conference in London.

Tory election strategists are planning to turn their fire on Labour's trade union proposals the week after next, after a renewed assault on the Opposition's public spending plans. Ministers will argue that Labour and the unions are "thick as thieves", pointing out that 90 per cent of the votes at the party's conferences are cast by the unions and that three-quarters of its money comes from union sources. They will also highlight the fact that most of the shadow cabinet are sponsored by unions.

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40-49	£12.00	£22.00	£30.00
50-59	£18.00	£32.00	£44.00
60-69	£28.00	£48.00	N/A
70-74	£47.00	£79.00	N/A

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MONTHLY RATES			
AGE LAST BIRTHDAY	INDIVIDUAL ONLY	INDIVIDUAL & SPOUSE	INDIVIDUAL & FAMILY
Under 40	£4.95	£7.95	£11.50
40-49	£6.50	£11.50	£15.50
50-59	£9.50	£16.50	£22.50
60-69	£14.50	£24.50	N/A
70-74	£24.00	£40.00	N/A

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☐ ☐ COVER FOR MYSELF & FAMILY

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CHILDREN		
(Unmarried dependants to age 22)		

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Dumping at sea to end

The Ministry of Defence is to stop dumping redundant ammunition and explosives at sea from next January, Kenneth Clarke, the under secretary for defence procurement, said in a written reply.

The change is in line with the government's general policy, as agreed internationally, that waste should be disposed of on land where this is safe and practicable.

Woman tipped for top job

Ladbroke, the bookmakers, have made Betty Boothroyd, a deputy speaker, favourite to succeed Bernard Weatherill as Speaker after the election, when Mr Weatherill retires. They are offering odds of 2-1 on for Miss Boothroyd, 6-1 against Dame Janet Fookes, and 10-1 against Paul Channon. Harold Walker, the deputy speaker, is also offered at 10-1.

Part-timers

Twenty five per cent of the British workforce - 6,491,000 people - were working part-time last June, the latest date for which figures are available. Michael Howard, the employment secretary, said at question time.

On tour

An estimated 18.3 million overseas visitors are expected in the United Kingdom this year, spending around £8 billion, Eric Forth, the junior employment minister, told MPs at question time.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Trade and industry. Coal industry bill, remaining stages. Motions on stamp duty. Lords (2.30): Debates on the construction industry and Channel Tunnel rail links in the Southeast.

If you need to ask, can you afford it?

By Philip Webster

THE average cost of answering each of the 32,000 questions tabled by MPs to ministers last year was £50, the Commons was told last night. The cost to the taxpayer was some £1.6 million.

The Treasury said the maximum limit for answering a question was going up to £400, eight times higher than the average. Some cost a lot less, and some considerably more.

If civil servants consider the £400 limit is going to be exceeded they are required to refer the matter to ministers who can refuse to answer on the grounds of disproportionate cost.

The average cost of an-

swering questions has gone up, since 1988, from £33. Since

Police change line on family violence

THE Law Commission's report yesterday on rape within marriage is fresh evidence of the growing if belated recognition by police and lawyers that domestic bliss can be an illusion for women. The latest British Crime Survey estimated that there were over 400,000 domestic assaults on women in 1987 — a quarter of all assaults.

The Metropolitan Police claims to have led forces in Britain in striving over the past five years to change police culture, actively investigate offences and counsel victims with a network of domestic violence units.

All new detectives under training are now taught that they must treat the problem of domestic violence seriously. All officers must now detail any call to which they respond and a report of "no cause for police action" will no longer be accepted as an adequate response.

This week, as Scotland Yard opens its sixty-second domestic violence unit, in northeast London, the commission's report will be studied closely, not least by Inspector Shirley Tulloch,

Stewart Tandler reports on how Scotland Yard fights trouble at home

who co-ordinates the policy and work of the units. Later this year a Yard working party will review progress in London to date against the background of a continually rising call for help from women.

Inspector Tulloch said yesterday that there had been a dramatic change in the treatment of domestic cases and serious cases had led to heavy sentences. Units were finding increases in their workloads as assaults increased, possibly because of the stresses families are placed under including today's economic pressures.

Rape within marriage remained a very small portion of complaints. Most cases have involved couples living apart and allegations of rape involving a cohabiting couple were very difficult to investigate. But, she said, the number of reported cases might increase as women grow more confident that the police

will listen to their complaints and rape within marriage will feature on the agenda of the working party.

Since the formation of the first units recorded offences of domestic violence in London have risen from 2,300 in 1987 to 5,100 last year. Whether the figures represent a real increase in wife battering is debatable. Police accept that a major reason for the growth lies in the effort that has gone into showing that they will take action and in publicising the units and their work.

The units, manned by a small group of trained female and male officers, offer a focal point for women under attack at home. The work of the units can range from a joint approach with social agencies to prevent the violence continuing to organising prosecutions against offenders.

In southwest London the units have pioneered a system of cautioning husbands or partners for minor offences rather than launching court action. Research suggests that an arrest can be very effective in deterring a husband from more assaults.



Woman with a mission: Inspector Shirley Tulloch, co-ordinator of Scotland Yard's campaign to deal with domestic violence seriously and compassionately

PEOPLE

Long-distance run for Kim's postbag

North Koreans have started sending "letters of loyalty" to Kim Jong Il, son and designated heir of President Kim Il Sung, to mark his forthcoming 50th birthday. Pyongyang's official news agency said. The letters were adopted at mass meetings in preparation for the junior Kim's birthday on February 16, the Korean Central News Agency said. Relay runners set off from 21 places with the letters and will arrive in Pyongyang after going "through all the counties and cities".

President Corason Aquino of the Philippines has ordered an official to study turning the huge US naval base at Subic Bay into a Hong Kong-like free port after American forces withdraw this year. Speaking at the base, she said she had instructed veteran diplomat Alejandro Melchor, in charge of administering base conversion plans, to study the proposal.

Included with the plans is the proposal for a special economic zone in this place with a free port status like Hong Kong, she said in a speech before Filipino base workers and residents of neighbouring Olongapo City, which she has vowed to save from economic collapse.

The Japanese prime minister, Kiichi Miyazawa, concerned about the quality of life in his

workaholic country, has asked that the next five-year plan should ensure that the average Japanese enjoyed the fruits of affluence. "Japan's per capita income has reached the world's highest levels, but this has not yet fully contributed to enriching life for each Japanese," Mr Miyazawa said in a statement.

The social environment, such as housing and infrastructure, should be improved to provide a better quality of life, he said, adding: "We have to pay much more attention to economic fairness rather than economic efficiency."

Many Australian voters see the prime minister, Paul Keating, as arrogant and untrustworthy, and he would lose an election if one were held now, according to a poll published in the Australian edition of Time magazine.

It gave Mr Keating a 25 per cent approval rating, 1 per cent below the lowest level ever recorded for Bob Hawke, who was removed as prime minister on December 19 after Labor party politicians voted in favour of Mr Keating. "Many people commented on their disapproval of Mr Keating — he is not the right person, an arrogant man, no faith in him — and many simply said 'don't like him'," said the Roy Morgan Gallup poll report.

Museum profits from art

By DAVID ALTHEER

THE Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg, pride of the tsars and later of the communists, is embracing capitalism with a bear-like hug and entering the high-quality reproduction business with the aid of a London company.

Eight oil paintings, including Van Gogh's *The Lilac Bushes*, and others by Monet, Picasso, Cézanne, Bonnard and Derrain, will be available in a limited-edition collection of 300 for £40,000, or £6,250 each, including frames.

George Garkusha, marketing director-general of the Hermitage, built by Catherine the Great in 1764, says: "We believe this initiative will raise funds for the Hermitage and make our treasures more accessible." Or, as Dr V. Suslov, director of the Hermitage, puts it: "We have to make money out of everything that we can these days."

The Hermitage directors believe their reproductions are virtually identical to the originals. ART UK, a north London company, uses what it calls the Artograph process, developed at a cost of £7 million, to copy oil paintings by laser optical scanning and special printing techniques that can simulate even the shape of the oil paint on the canvases.

Pretoria enters Aids table

Pretoria: South Africa has become the fifteenth African country to report more than 1,000 cases of Aids, with 1,011 people infected since 1982, the health department said. More people were infected through heterosexual than homosexual sex. (AFP)

Crime gap

Peking: People under 25 are responsible for 75 per cent of all crimes in China and the average age of first offenders has fallen to just 14, the weekly *Peking Review* magazine has reported. (Reuters)

Love blast

Davao: A Philippine teenager was so enraged on seeing his girlfriend in a cinema with another man that he exploded a hand grenade, killing himself and his rival. (Reuters)

Pet creepy

Sydney: Seeking the ideal pet? One that doesn't bark or stain the carpet? Then look no further than the cockroach. An entomologist here has discovered a lucrative market — he sells mating pairs of giant burrowing cockroaches for £26. He has sold 180 pairs in 18 months. (Reuters)

Knitters aid Delhi slum dwellers

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

VASANTHA Chandra has never heard of the Women's Institute. But she was glad of the bright-coloured sweater that came from far away. She said it might save the life of her undernourished daughter Nitya, aged six weeks, who is desperately thin.

Mrs Chandra is one of thousands of Delhi slum dwellers who have received sweaters knitted by members of the Women's Institute in response to an appeal that appeared in August's issue of *Home and Country*, the Women's Institute magazine. Instead of the thousand sweaters the organisers expected, 11,000 sweaters were made, nearly 9,000 of which have already been distributed. They followed a simple pattern dubbed the *jhuggi* jumper.

The *jhuggi* dwellers of Mori Gate slum in north Delhi, where 100 Tamil-speaking families live, survive as balloon-sellers, sweepers and coolies. Most families earn less than 50p a day. Mrs Chandra, aged 22, has received one sweater for each of her five children and says the winter will not be so hard now. "It is very cold at night. My baby is sick because we can't keep her warm."

Her tiny *jhuggi* has open windows: in December the rain lashed through it and soaked her children as they slept in the same thin clothes they wear all day. Many people die each year in the Delhi winter.

The *jhuggi* jumper scheme was instigated by the sewing group of the Delhi Commonwealth Women's Association, a welfare organisation. Morwenna Goodall, wife of Sir David Goodall, the retired British high commissioner, got her home village of Ampthorpe in Yorkshire to knit sweaters. They made 101: the Women's Institute was then approached and the scheme spread throughout Britain. British Airways offered to fly the sweaters to India, free of charge.

Varada Menon, a member of the women's association, said the slum-dwellers were overwhelmed by the gifts. "They are touched to think that people who live thousands of miles away would do this for them."



Vasantha Chandra and baby Nitya

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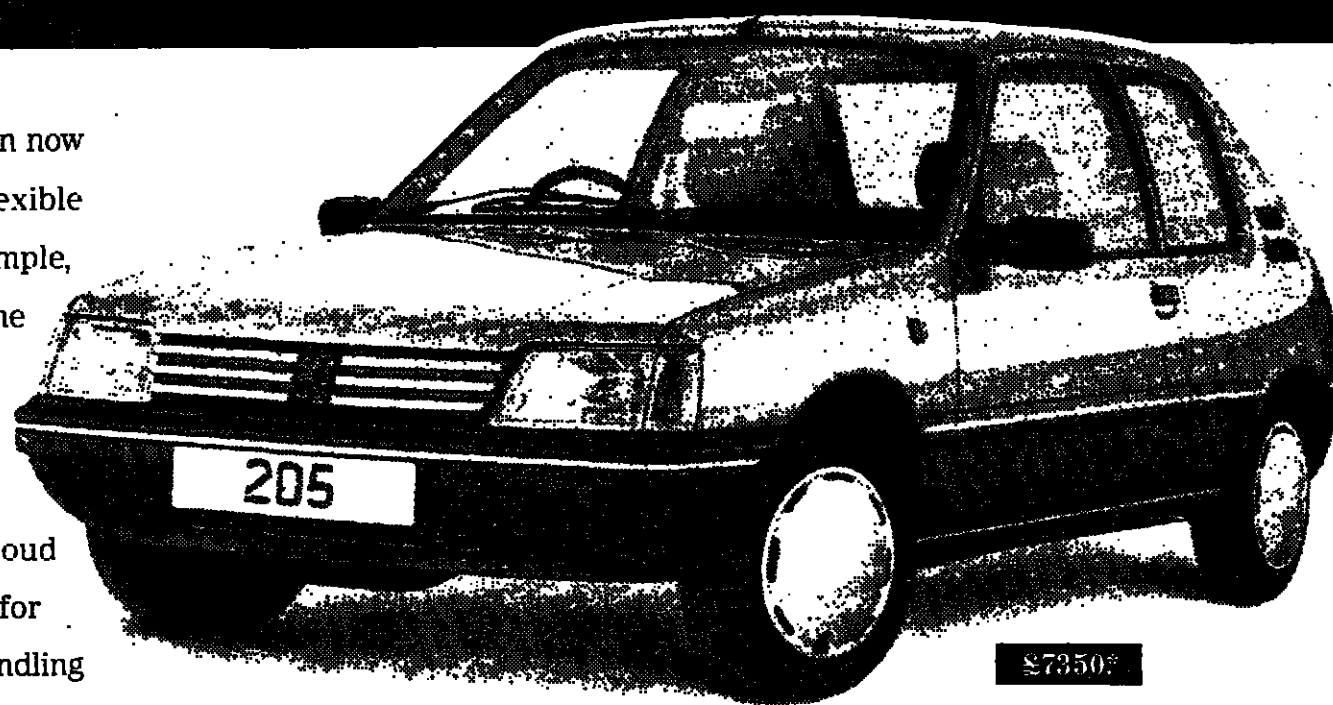
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MONTHLY PAYMENT	£158.19	£128.32	
FINANCE CHARGES	£1,250.00	NIL	
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UN peacekeepers arrive to start Croatia mission

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN ZAGREB AND TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE

THE first batch of United Nations peacekeepers arrived in Zagreb and Belgrade yesterday paving the way for a full intervention force of some 10,000 "blue berets" in the Yugoslav conflict.

The 50 UN officers, who are from 18 countries including Britain, are led by Colonel John Wilson from Australia. They are unarmed and will be stationed in the two capitals and at 11 trouble spots throughout Croatia, where they will attempt to strengthen the present ceasefire by installing communications equipment linking the Croatian and the federal army.

They will also liaise between the two sides to prevent minor incidents escalating into full-scale breaches of the

fragile peace. One Croatian was killed and another wounded on Monday night after exchange of fire near the Adriatic port of Šibenik but other fronts remained quiet.

Colonel Wilson said that he would spend the next days meeting senior officers of the federal army and that groups of UN officers would disperse today throughout Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. The latter has yet to be drawn into the conflict, but Bosnia's deputy interior minister, Vukobratović, said yesterday that its tense ethnic mix of Muslims, Croats and Serbs made it "one big crisis point".

Two groups of 12 observers arrived in Zagreb from Vienna yesterday afternoon flying the UN flag and wearing

their distinctive hats. All have experience in previous UN peacekeeping operations and have been drafted into Yugoslavia from Kuwait and Angola. One officer, Major Abdul Hafiz from Bangladesh, said: "Our mission here is to make use of the UN's good offices to maintain the ceasefire and, if so happens that it is broken, to try to restore the status quo."

The advance party of 50 will not venture into frontline areas although later groups of armed peacekeepers are scheduled to enter the regions where fighting has been fiercest. The two sides now have basic communication channels for the first time since the conflict began last June. Representatives of the federal army and Croatian army commanders met in the Hungarian town of Pécs at the weekend and have agreed on further weekly meetings in a neutral place.

The UN has made clear that it will only begin to draft in the full complement of troops once a universal and stable ceasefire has been reached. But some Serb leaders in Croatian enclaves are unwilling to disarm their militias and regard the decision of the Serbian leader, Slobodan Milošević, to agree to a UN deployment as a betrayal of their cause. The extremist leader of the Krajina region, Milan Babić, is now confronting Mr Milošević and threatening that their feud could end in bloodshed.

Croatia and Serbia both agreed to bring in the UN but have different expectations. Serbia believes that the stationing of troops inside Croatia effectively confirms its territorial gains there by taking the regions it has conquered out of Zagreb's control.

But Franjo Tudjman, Croatia's leader, said yesterday that he expected the presence of a peacekeeping force to help his country regain the territory it had lost to the Serb-led federal army. He pledged that unless the lost areas were regained "the Croatian people... will save the entire land", implying that the war could go on.

On the eve of the deadline for EC recognition of individual Yugoslav republics, Constantine Mitsotakis, the Greek prime minister, has made an 11-hour trip to Belgrade, Bonn and Rome in an attempt to prevent the recognition of Macedonia. Greece believes that the name Macedonia should be used only to refer to the region of Macedonia in the north of the country. It insists that it will only recognise the Yugoslav republic of the same name if it renames itself and has suggested the "Skopje Republic" as a suitable compromise. Athens fears that independence for Macedonia could spark off secessionism among Macedonians in Greece.

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Fresh start: Mikhail Gorbachev arriving yesterday for his first day as head of his Moscow foundation for social, economic and political research

Gorbachev's new role with think-tank

Former leader is back

FROM BRIAN KILLEN IN MOSCOW

MIKHAIL Gorbachev, three weeks after being forced to resign as president of the now disbanded Soviet Union, returned to work yesterday as head of a Moscow-based think-tank.

Looking subdued but relaxed, Mr Gorbachev arrived at his International Foundation for Social, Economic and Political Research for talks with Henry Kissinger, the American former Secretary of State. After his resignation last month, the former president said, he took a holiday, his full break from work in six years.

The think-tank, once headed by the "father of glasnost" Alexander Yakovlev, is now better known as the "Gorbachev foundation". The former Soviet leader will continue to work with Mr Yakovlev and other associates who helped him during almost seven years in office to transform his nation and world politics.

Mr Gorbachev said that he agreed with recent criticism of economic reforms being implemented by his old political rival, Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president. But he added that he believed the radical reforms, including price liberalisation, needed time to work. "There is no need to hurry because it is a crucial, very difficult stage... It is too early to draw conclusions," he said. Mr Gorbachev said that another ten days or so were needed to assess the impact on the nation of lifting price controls.

He made no comment on the Commonwealth of Independent States, which he opposed before bowing to the will of the 11 republics that created it to replace the Soviet Union.

The former Soviet leader, who at the age of 60 appears to be heading for a career as an elder statesman, said after his resignation that he had no intention of abandoning politics. He has been offered posts at several American universities, but has declined those and other offers in Europe, preferring to take charge of the foundation that bears his name. The foundation will generate ideas and give advice on social, economic and political issues.

The independent Interfax news agency quoted Mr Gorbachev as saying that the situation in the country was serious and required corrective measures. He said that it was necessary to establish co-operation between republics, introduce tax policies that would stimulate production and deal immediately with economic monopolies.

Mr Gorbachev added that he wished President Yeltsin would work for greater co-operation among the commonwealth republics. Interfax reported: "I do not think anyone can match the role the Russian president plays in this field," he said. (Reuters)

● Nuclear assurance: Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said yesterday that he had received assurances that the control of the former Soviet Union's nuclear arsenal remained in Russian hands (Sheila Gunn writes).

There was much confusion in the republics, he told the Commons foreign affairs committee, but he saw no reason to doubt those assurances. However, David Howell, the chairman, said that it had evidence of proliferation in the nuclear capability of smaller countries.

Parliament, page 5

Amnesty demands torture embargo

A BAN on British companies exporting equipment that could be used for torture and executions has been called for by Amnesty International (David Young writes).

Amnesty is also calling for an end to the secrecy that surrounds training provided by British forces and is demanding safeguards that training provided by the United Kingdom does not include instruction in techniques that will lead to human rights violations.

In a report, *Repression Trade UK Ltd*, Amnesty says that over the past ten years legions, an electronic torture chamber dubbed "House of Fun", and gallows have been exported by British firms.

The report also says that at a recent arms exhibition in Britain a weapon being offered for sale to overseas customers was described in sales literature as being capable of making "human hamburgers out of occupants in a room, car or other enclosed area".

Allegations that two Cambodian armed opposition groups have been trained by British forces, reportedly the SAS, in sabotage and mining techniques that have resulted in about 300 civilians a month losing limbs and an unknown number of deaths have also been made.

Minister quits

Madrid: Julian Garcia Valverde, the Spanish health minister, has resigned after allegations of financial irregularities during his time as chairman of the state railway company, Renfe. He denies any wrongdoing.

Li to visit UN

Peking: Li Peng, the Chinese prime minister, is to attend the United Nations Security Council summit in New York on January 31, and visit several European capitals, diplomats said. (Reuters)

Gandhi refusal

Delhi: Attempts to revive the Gandhi political dynasty, after the assassination last year of Rajiv Gandhi, were dashed when his daughter, Priyanka, rejected becoming a Congress (I) party committee member in Uttar Pradesh.

Kohl ally wins

Strasbourg: Egon Klepsch, a German Christian Democrat, was elected president of the European parliament. Herr Klepsch, an ally of Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, defeated three others for the post. (AP)

Buying spree

Islamabad: Mian Nawaz Sharif, the Pakistani prime minister, has left for France, where he is expected to try to buy a nuclear power plant and 44 Mirage jet fighters. America stopped military sales in 1990. (AP)

Gibraltar test

Gibraltar: The general election here tomorrow will test the economic plan of Joe Bossano, the chief minister and Socialist Labour party leader. The policy is designed to make the Rock self-sufficient.

Rat supreme

Toulouse: When the children of Toulouse sit down to school dinner, their meal may be spiced with a whiff of dead rat. A survey of state schools found dead rodents, spiders webs yards high and flocks of rotting food. (Reuters)



Yugoslav conflict 'uproots million'

FROM TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE

A MILLION people have been displaced by the war in Yugoslavia, according to Judith Kumin, chief of mission for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Belgrade.

That figure means that the conflict in Croatia has caused the greatest movement of refugees and displaced people in Europe since the second world war. About 600,000 people have been registered as refugees in Yugoslavia since the beginning of the war last summer. They registered when they needed help, Mrs Kumin said, "but we believe that this figure should be 10 per cent to 20 per cent higher because thousands have not registered."

"You must also include tens of thousands of young men who have fled the draft, refugees now abroad, and those people who have gone to stay with families and friends working abroad. This gives us at least one million who have been forced to move because of the war."

Technically, the agency does not call the 600,000 people registered in Yugoslavia "refugees" because they are still within their country of origin — they are "displaced persons".

Thousands have registered as refugees in Austria, Germany and Italy, but the greatest number are in Hungary. There, 25,000 people have registered, but the Hungarian government estimates that as many as 45,000 have fled across Croatia's north-eastern border. The figures for displaced people are in-

creasing further. 25,000 Serbian refugees in Croatia's Serb enclave of Krajina and the families of 26,000 Yugoslav army officers who are being withdrawn from Croatia and Slovenia are added.

So far, Yugoslavia's republican Red Cross societies have been able to cope. Local people have given generously and opened their homes, but help has also come from the agency, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and Serb and Croat emigrant communities.

Just over half the refugees are Croats who have been forced to flee their homes and are still in Croatia, but the rest are mainly Serbs who have sought refuge in Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. In Croatia, half the refugees have been housed with families; the rest have been put up in hotels and communal centres. In Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia, most refugees have been put up privately.

Mirjana Milanovic, an organiser at a refugee centre outside Belgrade, said: "Most people who opened their homes to refugees thought it would be for a short time. Several months later, many of these host families changed their minds and, despite the subsidies they get, they cannot afford it either, so we are getting people back here, whom we thought we had already settled."

Under the terms of the peace accord, all refugees are supposed to go home but with no political settlement, most will not move until their future is secure.

On the eve of the deadline for EC recognition of individual Yugoslav republics, Constantine Mitsotakis, the Greek prime minister, has made an 11-hour trip to Belgrade, Bonn and Rome in an attempt to prevent the recognition of Macedonia. Greece believes that the name Macedonia should be used only to refer to the region of Macedonia in the north of the country. It insists that it will only recognise the Yugoslav republic of the same name if it renames itself and has suggested the "Skopje Republic" as a suitable compromise. Athens fears that independence for Macedonia could spark off secessionism among Macedonians in Greece.

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Traitor Blake to help KGB heirs sell their new image

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

GEORGE Blake, who spent years for the Soviet Union for ten years and has lived in Moscow since his dramatic escape from Wormwood Scrubs prison in 1966, is to speak at a press conference in Moscow today to launch the Russian edition of his autobiography.

Blake, who is now 68, has given a few interviews to the Western media in recent years, but remained for the most part in the shadows and several reports have said that he suffers from depression.

The decision to put Blake "on show" for the benefit of the media seems to be part of a campaign by the former foreign intelligence branch of the KGB — now reorganised as the Russian foreign intelligence service — to project an impression of enlightened openness. Last week, the service's press officer produced Oleg Nechiporenko, a retired KGB operative, to relate his largely abortive attempts to interview American prisoners of war in Vietnam in the 1970s.

It is not clear where the initiative for the foreign intelligence service's new image comes from. It could come from the service itself, which may feel under pressure to demonstrate its worth or exhibit a new style. Equally, it could come from the service's new Russian masters, wanting to demonstrate to the world that they are breaking with the past.

A third possibility is that it comes from within the former

KGB, which experienced a double loss of dignity with the dissolution of the Soviet Union. A decree issued by Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president, on December 19 announced not only that the Soviet KGB was being sub-



Blake: Moscow launch of his autobiography

sumed into the much smaller Russian Federation KGB, but that the KGB and the interior ministry of the Soviet Union and the Russian Federation were being merged to form one super-ministry to fight crime. The foreign intelligence branch was hived off, but its staff has undergone almost no changes and the KGB roots remain.

Mr Yeltsin's move to merge the KGB and interior ministry has placed the whole existence and ethos of the KGB under threat and has aroused a wave of opposition, much of it orchestrated. The staff of the two institutions are fight-

ing the merger by various means. For the benefit of public opinion, they have raised the spectre of the NKVD, which conducted Stalin's purges and was founded from a similar merger in 1934. They are also fighting the move on constitutional grounds.

A group of parliamentary deputies has taken the matter to Russia's newly established constitutional court, arguing that in merging the two institutions Mr Yeltsin exceeded his presidential authority. The hearing — the first ever before the court — opened yesterday and one of the under-tones was fear on the part of the heirs of the KGB that their special status and traditions would vanish without trace.

At a time when the KGB in all its manifestations is fighting for its very existence, boasting of past successes or coming clean about others might be thought politically prudent. Whether it can, or should, be given any more credence than before, however, even in its new guise, is doubted by at least one former senior KGB officer, Oleg Kalugin, a former head of Soviet counter-intelligence, who defected to the democratic camp 18 months ago, yesterday stood by his allegations that the KGB had interrogated American prisoners of war in Vietnam and accused "remnants of the KGB" of mounting an elaborate cover-up.

YUGOSLAVIA NOTEBOOK by Anne McElvoy

Del Boy jokes cut across divisions of war

AFTER six months at war, Azagreb's Intercontinental hotel has crossed out Serbian cream soup and fish salad Sava (named after the Serbian patron saint) from its menu. The dishes will be renamed along "Croatian lines" once the Yugoslav republic's independent credentials are established, which the *maître d'hôtel* assures will be the case.

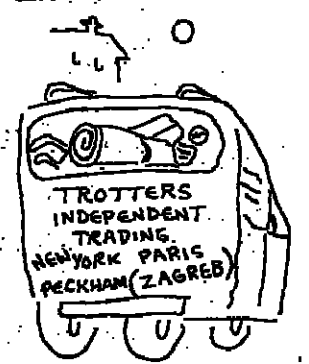
Little unites Serbs and Croats today. The only exception that transcends the conflict is their enthusiasm for British humour. *Only Fools and Horses* and *Allo! Allo!* are the current hits here. The latter, a spoof on the French resistance set during the second world war, is very popular. Nenad Lobić, a television columnist in Zagreb, said: According to

him, it is typical given the war and the perceived incompetence of Croatia's intelligence services. He added that Del Boy, the main character of *Only Fools and Horses*, is so well known that the name is now widely used in Croatia "as a term of affection for stupid people".

Across the border, Dragica, my Belgrade interpreter, shares the affection for the programme and swears that it is a valuable aid to his English vocabulary, which now includes the phrases "lovely-jubbly" and "pillock". Perhaps, that is a sign that there is hope of reconciliation after all for the warring sides.

Injective is an integral aspect of the Balkan cultural diet, but the authors of the "Stop the war in Croatia"

leaflet, aimed at awakening the dormant sensibilities of the uncaring West, has caused astonishment since



it appeared in public buildings and hotel lobbies at the beginning of the year.

Resonant with Shakespearean ire, it claims that the land is under siege by

"alligators, werewolves and snakes hell poisonous" and concludes with a grim if unlikely warning: "Oh, Europe and America, until it is too late even for you they are coming, these hyenas and rabid rats."

"They are coming and will eat up Croatia and the Balkans, they will eat up even you with your cold and uninterested looks, or are you gentlemen conducting some experiment with Croatia? How long will Serbo-communists and Chetnik animals massacre my dear mother homeland Croatia?"

Fairness dictates that this assessment be balanced by war-wisdoms from the Serbian camp, collected by Belgrade's *Vreme* magazine. "Democracy is the word which has been infiltrated

from the outside to cause new divisions between the Serbs even more tragic than previous ones", is a saying credited to Rastislav Petrovic, a historian.

Danilo Markovic, the Serbian education minister who advocates Cyrillic as the official language in Yugoslavia, is quoted as saying: "Cyrillic is nicer and more practical for computers than the Latin alphabet."

Dragutin Zelenovic, the former prime minister, said: "Foreign investors from all over the world have been to see me and offered to invest in the Serbian economy, so there should be no problems." Dismissing claims that high unemployment and inflation at 250 per cent meant that the country was facing economic difficulties.

Gascons ring the changes

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

THE affair of the bells of Laas began a few years ago when a violent storm wrecked the ancient church tower in this tiny farming village deep in the heart of Gascony. With the enthusiastic support of its 30 or so permanent residents, it raised the money to replace the lost bells with some advanced electronic circuitry that preserved the sound of the peals without requiring the services of traditional bell-ringers.

The villagers were delighted, but not Christian Monnoyeur, owner of the château that stands within earshot of the restored church tower. Arriving from Paris for a restful long weekend in the country, he was greeted by the sound of the new bells ringing out every half hour and hour, plus a three-daily session for the angels.

Enough was enough and after M Monnoyeur paid a

visit to the mayor, Maurice Cuillas, a civilised agreement was reached under which the bells would fall silent between the hours of 10pm and 7am. This, however, did not endure for long and M Monnoyeur decided upon reflection that he could settle for nothing less than a total prohibition, the angels excepted. So he took legal action to achieve that.

But as the rest of France well knows, it is unwise to push the fiery Gascons too far: the blood of D'Artagnan still courses through their veins. The municipal council promptly dug in its heels against what indignant locals perceived as an attempt by this well-heeled outsider to lord it over them. "People here like to hear their bells, it lives things up in such a peaceful little corner of the world," M Cuillas told the newspaper *La Dépêche du Midi*. There could be no

question of silencing the bells totally just to please M Monnoyeur, the mayor added, especially since they were really no more clamorous nowadays than before. "We are still prepared to make further efforts, perhaps reducing the time that they ring during the day. But demanding complete silence... that was asking too much!"

M Monnoyeur's next move was to seek a order from the administrative tribunal in nearby Pau banning all but the angelus bells, in pursuit of which he engaged two Parisian lawyers to prepare the ground. It goes without saying that such a turn of events was not kindly received in Laas, where lawyers can expect a cool reception. The villagers are more determined than ever to fight on, awaiting the final court ruling next week with more than a touch of Gascon bravado.

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Arab leaders fight inexorable march of Islamic militants



Hassan: unable to quell hardliners

THE halting of the Algerian elections is seen in Arab capitals as merely an obstacle to the advance of Islamic fundamentalism, growing support for which is ticking like a time bomb in countries as diverse as Jordan, Egypt, Turkey, Tunisia, Syria and Sudan.

Reports of Pakistan's acquisition of nuclear expertise, Algeria's building of a new nuclear plant, and arms-buying by Iran in Russia and North Korea have increased the concern of Western and Arab intelligence agencies.

There has been co-operation between Egypt, Tunisia and some European agencies to monitor an attempt by Iran to use Sudan in order to export militant Islam.

Iranian Revolutionary Guards have set up camps in

Growing popular support for Islamic fundamentalism is ticking like a time bomb in Arab countries, reports Christopher Walker from Amman

Sudan, where the military junta is under the sway of fundamentalists and where Sharia (Islamic law), was recently reinstated after a five-year suspension. The link between support for fundamentalists and the introduction of Western-style democracy in the Arab world is traced back to the Jordanian elections of November 1989 when fundamentalists won the biggest block of seats in the lower parliament.

Jordan had traditionally been regarded as one of the

most moderate Arab states. But the wave of support for the fundamentalists was seen as a reflection of true feelings — especially among the disillusioned and often unemployed young — exposed by King Hussein's pioneering decision to allow a fair poll.

The fundamentalists have since been given a boost in the Middle East by the Gulf war, which they opposed, and by severe economic problems that have increased disaffection among young Muslim men. Tunisia had already put

its armed forces on alert before the decision to scrap tomorrow's poll in Algeria. President Ben Ali last year crushed Tunisia's fundamentalist party by arresting 300 fundamentalists, amid accusations of torture, and expelling its leaders, accusing them of plotting a coup.

In Egypt, where President Sadat was assassinated by Muslim fanatics in 1981, the repression has been severe, also prompting protests from a number of human rights organisations over torture inflicted on Islamic detainees. Hundreds of activists were jailed without trial for voicing opposition to Egypt's involvement in the coalition against Iraq. The country is regarded in the West as the key to Middle East stability. This is

one reason why Western governments are thought to have overlooked the serious flaws in Egyptian democracy.

After events in Algeria, which sent shockwaves through the Egyptian establishment, Muslim militants have been given a warning about any attempts to take advantage. Abdel-Halim Moussa, the interior minister, said: "Our commitment to democracy does not limit our movement to confront immediately any attempt to break the law or destabilise security, whether by religious extremists or others."

He told a parliamentary committee the security services "were following closely" contacts between Egyptian militants and fundamentalist groups mainly in Algeria.

Iran and Sudan. In Morocco, King Hassan's title of *Amin al-Mouminine* (descendant of the Prophet Muhammad) is insufficient to dampen growing protests by fundamentalist groups. In Turkey, the fundamentalist Welfare party won just under 17 per cent of the vote last October.

The grimmest warning of trouble came from Anis Mansour, an Egyptian journalist close to President Mubarak, who wrote in *al-Ahram*: "He lies to himself and to all the people who say that [Ayatollah Khomeini] was an Iranian and will remain an Iranian. He is ignorant who says: 'How does this concern us? These are problems that relate to the Shia sect and we are Sunnis.'"



Sadat was murdered by Muslim fanatics

Palestinians and Israelis finally sit down to talk

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND RICHARD BEESTON AND PAUL ADAMS IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL and the Palestinians finally began their first direct negotiations on interim Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories on Monday night, and were due to resume their historic talks in Washington late yesterday.

At the initial two-hour meeting, the two sides put aside their procedural wrangling that had hindered previous talks, and exchanged lists of issues for negotiation.

Despite obvious disagreements on Israel's continued settlement activity in the occupied territories, Haim Ashwari, the Palestinian spokeswoman, said the inaugural meeting had been candid and honest and "not in the least bit confrontational".

Zelman Shoval, the Israeli ambassador to Washington, called the atmosphere "very friendly, very congenial".

Israeli and Jordanian negotiators were also due to commence their first direct negotiations yesterday, with the ultimate aim of achieving a peace agreement between the two countries.

Despite the breakthrough in the face of Arab protests, the Israeli negotiators were still planning to fly home tonight, determined that the talks should now be moved to the Middle East to underscore the fact that Arab states were now talking directly to them. But Dr Ashwari cautioned that the breakthrough was only a first step in a very

long process. "It is going to be very taxing."

Both sets of talks were made possible by an agreement, reached earlier on Monday, which had resolved a month-long dispute over the role of the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation. The Israelis had refused to meet the Palestinians separately, lest they implicitly recognised a distinct Palestinian identity.

Under the agreement, the Israelis are meeting two teams comprising nine Palestinians plus two Jordanians and nine Jordanians plus two Palestinians. These sub-committees will discuss issues exclusively affecting either the Palestinians or Jordan. However, the teams are defined as sub-committees of the joint delegation and not as separate delegations. Issues of general concern will be discussed by the full delegations.

Talks were also continuing yesterday between Israeli and Syrian negotiators, but more than 24 hours of meetings this month and last have produced virtually no progress whatsoever. Each side has adopted an uncompromising stance on the future of the disputed Golan Heights.

The breakthrough in Washington was however met with bloodshed in Israel when seven Israelis were injured last night after Palestinian gunmen raked a bus and car carrying Jewish settlers in the occupied West Bank with automatic fire. The incident,

was seen as an attempt by Palestinian hardliners to sabotage the peace efforts.

A spokesman for the Israeli defence force said that a number of shots were fired from the roadside near the Palestinian village of Ein Siniya. Soldiers immediately sealed off the area.

Settler leaders demanded that the government immediately recall the Israeli delegation in protest. Bob Lang, a spokesman for the Jewish communities in Judea, Samaria (West Bank) and Gaza, said: "Every time we talk peace, Jews are shot. The prime minister must say that we cannot sit at the same table with those who attack us. We know that the same Arab leaders in Washington are telling Arabs to keep up their violence against us."

Yesterday's ambush occurred only a few miles south of the site of a similar attack which was launched on the eve of last October's peace talks in Madrid that killed two people. Since then two other Jewish settlers have been killed in separate Palestinian gun attacks in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The incidents have provoked violent responses from the right-wing settler movement.

So far the military authorities have responded by imposing curfew orders on Palestinian towns and villages and ordering the deportation of 12 Palestinian activists. However, yesterday's shooting is likely to intensify pressure on the government to clamp down even harder.

The right-wing anger threatens to bring down the government of Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister. Yesterday, hardliners threatened to leave the government, unless he could prove that Israel was not offering autonomy to the Palestinians. Mr Shamir's aides admitted that early general elections were possible.

The latest threat to Mr Shamir's government followed reports that Israeli negotiators in Washington had presented the Palestinian delegation with a blueprint for self-rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Rehavam Zeevi, leader of the tiny Mokedet party, which advocates the mass expulsion of Palestinians from the occupied territories, said: "If the news is correct... we are leaving the government."

Areas warning, page 10



Light fantastic: a model in a clinging, sequined silk dress stalks the catwalk yesterday in a show celebrating Hong Kong's fashion week

Suspected killer 'confesses'

FROM WILLIAM CASH IN LOS ANGELES

A CALIFORNIAN man on parole after serving nearly ten years in a Texas prison for beating his daughter to death emerged as a prime suspect yesterday for the serial killing of 19 women in Los Angeles.

William Sufi, aged 41, was arrested last week while with a prostitute on University Avenue, where several of the women were last seen alive. According to two Los Angeles television stations, Mr Sufi has confessed to some of the killings. The 19 bodies were found on hillsides, in alleys and along roads in Riverside

County, east of Los Angeles.

The revelation comes in the week that Jeffrey Dahmer, a necrophiliac, pleaded guilty but insane in Milwaukee to killing 15 men and boys. Last week a British former public schoolboy, Charles Ng, aged 30, went on trial at Calaveras, east of San Francisco, accused of being the "thriller killer" who stalked 11 women and filmed them pleading for mercy before raping and finally murdering them.

Mr Sufi and Mr Ng face the death penalty if convicted.

Yesterday, the Supreme Court ordered the California court of appeal to resolve cases involving death row prisoners more quickly. Since capital punishment was reinstated in 1976, no murderer has been executed against his will within a nine-state region where 462 inmates are on death row, 306 of them in California.

The spate of serial killings led to the order which stated that "any further postponements" of death penalty cases "will be subject to a most rigorous scrutiny".

Algeria ponders imposing state of emergency

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ALGIERS

ALGERIA'S military-dominated regime was yesterday thought to be considering the imposition of a state of emergency and the dissolution of the Islamic Salvation Front unless it accepts the cancellation of the country's elections.

The independent newspapers *Le Matin* and *El Watan* said the High Security Council which assumed power on Monday after the resignation of President Chadli Benjedid could invoke article 87 of the constitution which allows for a "state of exception" to be imposed "when the nation is threatened by an imminent peril to its institutions".

El Watan said: "The way would be opened in this case for a dissolution of the Islamic Salvation Front."

The High Security Council, which on Sunday cancelled the country's first free parliamentary elections four days before the second round, was also expected to announce the formation of a "collegial presidency".

Observers said that the government of Sid Ahmed Ghalil had been discouraged by the uncompromising tone of a statement issued by the leaders of the Islamic front on Monday urging resistance to the curtailing of the elections, which the fundamentalists had been expected to win. About 50 leaders of the front were believed to be attending a meeting at a secret location to decide on strategy.

The fundamentalists are evidently divided. One faction, led by Abdelqadir Hachani, favoured limiting resistance to a call for the electoral process to be respected. But the jailed hardliner, Abassi Madani, reportedly wants opposition to extend to street marches and strikes which could lead to repression by the army.

A third group, known as the "Afghans" because of their admiration for Muslim guerrillas in Afghanistan, is said to be in favour of an insurrection.

The appeal by the front stopped short of giving specific instructions to its supporters and the streets of Algiers were quiet yesterday. Shoppers and office workers seemed unperturbed by troops in full battle gear who were patrolling around key installations.

Muslim fundamentalist activists yesterday reacted with amazement to signs that the authorities might ban the Islamic front. Ismaili, a carpenter said: "It is not just an office, they are going to ban the people."

Outside his workshop young fundamentalists gathered on street corners in front

of the Soonah mosque. "The ruling party is a bad loser," said Podi, a self-appointed spokesman for the group. "The National Liberation Front is dead but it wants to stay on the throne."

Hocine Ait Ahmed, the leader of the moderate front for Socialist Forces, hoped the Islamic front "can master its troops and not engage in operations that risk opening the door to civil war."

El Moudjahid, the newspaper of the former ruling National Liberation Front, has called for "the primacy of civil peace" and made no reference to the aborted democratic process. Many of the more independent newspapers shed no tears at the prospect of the fundamentalists being banned from party activities.

Jobless send Bush warning

FROM PETER STOTHARD US EDITOR, IN CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

THE unemployment lines of New Hampshire sent a warning to George Bush yesterday as the president prepared for his first 1992 campaign visit to the state that is threatening his future.

David Dupell of Concord, a well-dressed engineer who lost his job installing water sprinklers five months ago, told Patrick Buchanan, the conservative challenger, that he would vote any way necessary to get Mr Bush out of office. He was joined by Peter Hannagan, who lost his job as an arcade manager on the day that Mr Buchanan met him at the unemployment office. "I voted for Bush in '88 but will vote Buchanan now," he said. Asking "how long is the recession going to last", he said that he was "confused about how America got into this mess".

Mr Buchanan, who in speeches makes broad claims of the president's broken promise not to raise taxes, addressed the two men's cases, promising no easy end to America's economic troubles. At least two independent New Englanders, sharing the region's characteristic scepticism of politics, ended the day impressed. "I like his honesty," Mr Hannagan said.

When President Bush arrives in the state today, for what is billed as an economic tour of coastal towns, he will find that his primary campaign is clearly in trouble.

Mr Buchanan is now only 16 points behind Mr Bush, according to the latest poll of Republican primary voters. The former speechwriter and journalist, who a month ago could be discredited by the White House, is now a threat who can seriously embarrass Mr Bush on February 18, a day which the pro-Buchanan newspaper, *The Manchester Union*, said could provide the political upset of this century.

The boom state of the 1980s now has one of the fastest rising unemployment rates in the country. More than half of the banks are closed and many domestic property values have halved.

At the employment office Mr Buchanan met the people whose case studies he used for important speeches as election day draws near.

Bush's first hurdle, page 14
Leading article, page 15

Church leaders urge Shamir to defend Christian rights

BY RICHARD BEESTON

LEADERS of the nine main Christian denominations in Jerusalem accused the Israeli authorities yesterday of flouting the rights of their communities in the Holy Land.

In a toughly worded statement, the heads of the churches, including Samir Kafry, the Anglican bishop, criticised the increase in Jewish settlement in Arab east Jerusalem and the apparent disregard shown by Israeli authorities for recently unearthed Christian archaeological remains.

"One of the most serious incidents, and the one with the widest repercussions, has been the seizure of houses in Silwan by settlers who enjoy public funding and seek to evict many other families from the same neighbourhood of Silwan," the state-

ment said. It cited as further grave incidents the seizure in April 1990 of the Greek Orthodox St John's Hospice in the old city's Christian quarter and what it termed the "ambivalence" of the Shamir government towards the settler movement.

The statement called on the police to protect church property after vandals belonging to the extremist Kach movement recently slashed the tyres of cars belonging to Christian institutions in Jerusalem and dubbed "Arabs get out" in Hebrew.

Earlier, Dr George Carey, the visiting Archbishop of Canterbury, had said that the Christian community in the Holy Land could disappear in 15 years unless steps were taken to protect their rights. Yesterday's statement added:

"As we have repeatedly stated in the past, we condemn any attempt to modify the demographic and unique character and status of Jerusalem." The statement, signed by the Greek Orthodox, Latin and Armenian patriarchs, demanded protection for recently discovered Byzantine and Armenian archaeological remains that were vandalised by ultra-orthodox Jews opposed to any excavations that might unearth Jewish tombs. "We demand the authorities provide protection against these depredations and take prompt action to forestall any harassment in the future," said the leaders, who threatened to take up the matter with Unesco, the United Nations body charged with protecting cultural heritage.

Widening universe expands minds

The universe will go on expanding for ever, if new information gathered by America's Hubble telescope is accurate.

Results announced this week at a meeting of the American Astronomical Society have confirmed previous estimates that there is simply too little ordinary matter in the universe to halt its expansion. Unless there is at least ten times as much "dark matter", which we can neither see nor feel, the universe is bound to expand infinitely.

The findings, reported at the meeting in Atlanta by Jeffrey Linsky, an astronomer at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, heighten the puzzle about the ultimate fate of the universe. Most astronomers would like to believe that the matter thrown outwards by the Big Bang will ultimately

come to a halt, and start coalescing again as the universe heads towards a "Big Crunch".

Whether it will do so depends entirely on the total mass of the universe. If that is sufficient, the gravitational attraction will be enough to stop the expansion and eventually reverse it. But Hubble's results confirm earlier estimates that the total visible mass is only a tenth of that needed for this to happen. The conclusion is that either we are in for infinite expansion, or there must be a form of dark matter which makes up nine-tenths of the universe.

The Hubble team arrived at its conclusions after making the most precise measurements yet of the amount of deuterium — heavy hydrogen — in the universe. Astronomers believe that most of the deuterium created in the Big Bang exists today, and by measuring the ratio of deuterium to hydrogen they can estimate the maximum amount of ordinary matter that can exist in the universe.

Studying the star, Capella, using Hubble's high resolution spectrograph, they found an amount of normal matter too small by a factor of ten to reverse the expansion of the universe. There is only a 10 per cent chance of error in the calculation.

Other scientists at the Atlanta meeting reported the finding of the element, boron, in three of the oldest stars in the Milky Way, but they confessed that they did not know where the element had come from.

The boron may be a remnant of the explosion of a supernova at the time the Milky Way was formed, or it may provide evidence that elements were unevenly distributed in the first three minutes of the Big Bang, leading to some stars having more of some elements than others in the universe.

This last possibility casts doubts on the general conviction that all matter was evenly distributed after the Big Bang, and had only begun to coalesce into stars much later.

The Gulf war, one year on: how the conflict left its mark on the Middle East...

Not quite a global disaster

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

EVEN before President Saddam Hussein fired the Kuwaiti wells, the pundits predicted global catastrophe. Monsoons would fail, the world's climate system would be skewed, entire species would be lost. The end of the world was nigh.

The true environmental consequences of the Gulf war have been much obscured by propaganda and media exaggeration and are only now becoming apparent — but the pundits, it seems, were wrong. The war was dreadful, no question; but it was not armageddon.

The stream of warnings before the event was begun by King Hussein of Jordan in his speech to the World Climate Conference in Geneva in November 1990, and continued by a succession of anti-war groups in the west. The world climate system, they said, would be altered by the smoke from Kuwait's oil fires. The Asian monsoon, on which a billion people depend, would fail. Neither disaster happened.

On a regional basis, too, the vast mortalities of photogenic wildlife, and the extinctions of whole species, that were predicted for the oil-covered waters of the Gulf did not come to pass. Between 15,000 and 30,000 seabirds are thought to have died, but the dugongs, those curious and gentle sea-mammals which became instant celebrities when the oil slicks began, did not die in their hundreds, and neither did the green and hawksbill turtles, most of the vulnerable sea mammals remained too far to the south.

That said, the environmental impact of the war, where it did reach,

was without precedent both in the atmosphere and at sea, and it faded from the headlines only because events did not live up to the initial exaggeration.

According to figures released to *The Times* yesterday, it is probable that about 67 million tonnes of oil went up in smoke between the firing of Kuwait's wells by the retreating Iraqi army and the ceremonial extinguishing of the last burning wellhead by Kuwait's emir on November 6. Douglas Johnson, of the Meteorological Research Flight at Farnborough, who led a scientific investigation of the smoke plume, has calculated that this produced about 2.1 million tonnes of soot particles and about two million tonnes of sulphur.

Although these huge amounts of filth turned night into day above Kuwait, they did not affect the world climate system, because they did not get into the stratosphere. There they would have remained

above the rainclouds and — as some environmentalists feared — would possibly have caused the Asian monsoon to fail. As it happened, the soot particles got no higher than 5,000m, where rain washed them back down after a week to a fortnight. Locally, however, the smoke plume has indeed produced health problems on a huge scale, especially respiratory difficulties and skin afflictions. In September the World Health Organisation said it expected death rates in Kuwait to



Cormorant as war casualty: up to 30,000 seabirds are thought to have died, fewer than predicted

increase by ten per cent over the following year as a result.

The amount of oil released into the waters of the Gulf at the start of the war has been the subject of much speculation. Estimates range from the 11 million barrels General Schwarzkopf claimed at the outset to 0.5 million barrels, estimated by the Saudi Meteorology and Environmental Protection Administration on February 13. The average of these 25 estimates is 6.23 million barrels, and this is roughly in line

with the most recent US estimate of six to eight million barrels.

Six million barrels of oil is easily the largest amount of crude ever spilled into the sea at one go, dwarfing the 250,000 barrels spilled by the Exxon Valdez in Alaska in 1989. Its effects have been terrible, but contained.

The huge slick drifted down the Saudi coastline for 350 miles, wrecking havoc, and was halted at Abu Ali island. The intertidal zone — the sensitive area between high

and low water marks essential for many fish, small animals such as shrimps, and wading birds, and which in the Gulf is often represented by saltmarsh and mangrove swamp — has been largely wiped out.

However, because the slick was halted and did not reach Bahrain, Qatar and the islands of the southern Gulf, much greater mortalities were avoided.

Gulf war pictures, page 20

Brave new world fades

BY JAMIE DEITMER

A YEAR ago this morning Kuwaitis woke up to their 166th day under Iraqi occupation. As they dreamt about the liberation they were sure would come, they also considered what a new, post-war Kuwait would look like. Some believed a fully democratic future beckoned for the emirate. Opposition politicians, women, and journalists accustomed to censorship all hoped for a brave new world. The high expectations have in many ways been dashed. The al-Sabah family has shown little understanding of the changed psychology of many of their people and resorted to its pre-war method of governing, using patronage to head off criticism and opposition.

Within a few days of liberation an independent newspaper, *February 26th*, which was formed quickly after the Iraqi rout, was banned. A prominent opposition politician, Hamad al-Joual, was shot and seriously wounded by military irregulars widely believed to be connected with hardline junior al-Sabah members.

A strong message was sent to those who wanted the emirate to change when a government reshuffle in April saw the re-appointment of the highly unpopular sheikhs Salem and Nawaf al-Sabah — interior and defence ministers at the time of the invasion — to the cabinet. The new cabinet included no opposition figures or resistance leaders in its ranks.

After growing internal political pressure and behind-the-scenes diplomatic persuasion, the emir eventually agreed to hold the promise he gave while in exile of holding national assembly elections, and set the date for October 1992. The more western-style radical politicians are furious that the vote will remain limited to Kuwaiti males who can trace their ancestry back to 1920, thus restricting the electorate to about 70,000 people. Female resistance members are angry that they will still be denied a vote.

In the immediate months after liberation the al-Sabah family were criticised for the slow pace of emergency reconstruction of Kuwait City and the government was attacked for its failure to restore water and electricity supplies speedily. The language of government has softened. The pace of reconstruction has been slow. The service sector is still far from restored. The budget is five months late.

THE brave new world also failed to come for the 400,000 Palestinians resident in Kuwait before the Iraqi invasion. Nothing has done more to tarnish Kuwait than the semi-official vigilante-style campaign of arrests, torture and killings waged against the Palestinians from March to May. About 200,000 Palestinians remained in Kuwait during the Iraqi occupation. Some aided the Iraqis but the majority did not. The returning Kuwaitis wanted somebody to vent their anger against, and as immigrants the Palestinians had been resented long before the invasion. Several hundred Palestinians were killed and tortured. The 200,000 who were outside the emirate on liberation have not been allowed to return. Those who had public sector jobs have been sacked and many private sector employers, including banks, have also dismissed Palestinian workers. Only about 50,000 Palestinians remain in Kuwait today.

The effect of the Palestinian exodus on Kuwait has been devastating. The Palestinians formed the main professional class in the emirate. Ministries are hide-bound because of the lack of technical staff. Kuwait has cut off its nose to spite its face.

Israel 'faces 1,000 missiles'

FROM RICHARD BERTSON
INTELAVIV

ISRAEL'S defence minister, Moshe Arens, said yesterday that the international community had failed to learn the lessons of the Gulf war and continued to supply radical states in the Middle East with billions of pounds worth of weaponry.

Mr Arens said that Israel now faces hundreds of medium range missiles from potentially hostile countries in the Middle East, most of whom already have chemical weapons and some of whom are engaged in aggressive programmes to acquire nuclear arms.

"It is clear that a number of countries, specifically Iran and Libya, have medium range missiles with chemical warfare capability and are trying to obtain nuclear capability," he told *The Times*. "In the Middle East today there must be 1,000 missiles in Iraq, Iran, Syria, Libya and Saudi Arabia, most with a range to hit Israel."

Although controlling the sale of sophisticated weapons to the Middle East was seen as a priority by the West at the end of the Gulf war, the arms bazaar now appears to be

more active than ever. Iran has embarked on an ambitious campaign to modernise its military, particularly with hardware such as tanks and warplanes from redundant Soviet stockpiles. Syria is attempting to spend \$1 billion on similar weapons and Libya is reported to have tried to hire

former Soviet nuclear experts to help develop the atom bomb. Israel, the only confirmed nuclear power in the region, continues to receive about \$1 billion a year in American military aid as well as hundreds of millions of pounds in defence-related research and development funding.

Mr Arens, the front-runner to replace prime minister Yitzhak Shamir as leader of the ruling Likud party, was utterly dismissive about the prospects of any arms control agreement for the Middle East being reached when the subject is raised in Moscow on January 28 as part of scheduled multilateral talks.

The very countries that talk about arms control are the same countries that sell arms to the Middle East," he said, citing in particular Russia and other former Soviet republics, Britain, France, the United States, China and North Korea.

He said that the countries which posed the greatest threat to security in the Middle East had rejected the current American-led peace initiative. "Iraq, Iran and Libya are not taking part in the peace process — on the contrary they have announced they will do everything they can to derail it," he said. "So far as that game is concerned the peace process is not an adequate response."

Mr Arens said that the Jewish state depends on the deterrence value of its powerful military, which many Israelis on the both the left and the right believe should have gone into action when

Israel received its first Scud missile attack a year ago this week.

"It is hard to second guess Arab dictators but most of them are aware of Israel's military capability and I don't think that any of them are under the illusion that they could attack Israel without response," he said.

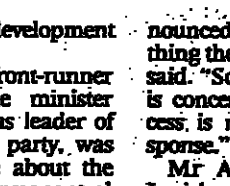
"They all know that if Israel did not hit back at Iraq it was not because we lacked the capability of doing so, or lacked the desire of doing so."

However, were Israel to be targeted by surface to surface missiles today, it is doubtful whether its civilian population would be much better protected than it was last year.

Not only has the reputation of the American Patriot missile system been dented by reports that it provided inadequate defence against Scud missiles aimed at Israel and Saudi Arabia, but Israel's own anti-missile system, the Arrow, is said to have malfunctioned on its last three test launches.

Embarrassed Israeli officials have also announced that all gas masks issued for the Gulf war will be replaced by October this year, because one in three was estimated to be faulty.

Warning: Arens



Weak demand

BY MARTIN BARROW

were suspended and Saudi Arabia increased output from five million barrels per day (bpd) to 8.5 million barrels. This made good most of the 4.5 million bpd that were lost when Iraq and Kuwait were removed from the international market. These levels have been sustained — or even increased — and last November Opec produced just under 25 million bpd, against a target of 23.5 million bpd. A mild winter in the northern hemisphere, affecting demand for heating fuel, has left the market awash with oil.

Oil prices could fall further this spring if, as expected, Iraq resumes oil exports and Opec is not able to impose cuts on other members. Last week Iraqi officials met representatives of the United Nations seeking to agree a formula that would allow the war-ravaged country to sell oil and raise funds for humanitarian purposes, such as the purchase of medicine and the reconstruction of hospitals. A UN resolution letting Iraq export \$1.6 billion of oil over a six-

month period is conditional upon Baghdad agreeing to use some of the funds to pay war reparations. Iraq is vehemently opposed to this condition but talks between the parties continue. Kuwait is also moving steadily towards the resumption of normal oil exports. All oil well fires have been extinguished and last November the emirate produced almost 500,000 bpd. This time next year it is likely that production will have returned to pre-war levels.

Opec meets next month to allocate quotas for the second quarter of 1992 and will attempt to bring production back under control. The organisation's record in forging agreements and then making them stick is not good, and oil traders foresee further price weakness as the cold season in the northern hemisphere draws to a close.

Saudi Arabia would benefit from higher oil prices but is understandably reluctant to be seen to be reducing oil output to accommodate the Iraqis, who little more than one year ago were bombing Saudi civilians. In America Saudi action to support higher oil prices would be interpreted as a poor way of thanking the US for its help in the war. Britain and America, the leading figures in the coalition against Saddam, will view lower oil prices as a mixed blessing. Although lower energy costs provide welcome relief in the battle against inflation, both countries are significant oil producers and will suffer from lower revenues.

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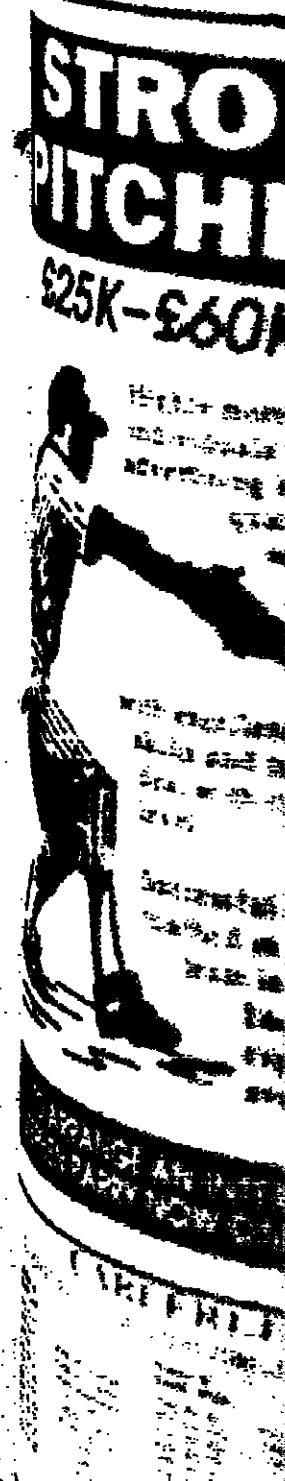
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and how television became a willing tool of the military machine — or did it?

Shooting news from both sides

A conflict of images

BY MARK LAITY

The editors of quality newspapers, worried by the implications for sales of the burgeoning "global village", should engrave on their word processors an addition to that most catchy of promotional jingles for Ted Turner's Cable News Network: "The moment television news captures live is a moment the world remembers."

The addition should be: "... but rarely comprehends".

Nowhere was this more apparent than during the Gulf war, seen by many as CNN's finest hour and the main reason why Turner, the 53-year-old former America's Cup yachtsman and third husband of Jane Fonda, who founded the network, was *Time* magazine's nomination as Man of the Year.

To those of us watching CNN in places where the war was taking place, it quickly became clear that viewers around the world and our own news desks were often getting a very different impression of what was taking place, and why.

CNN's coverage, for all its technical brilliance, presented war as sanitised public theatre, a war without much blood, few corpses and little mental anguish, in a world where appalling examples of military speak such as "collateral damage" (a euphemism for human carnage) passed unquestioned. It was also a war where censorship and manipulation were frequent.

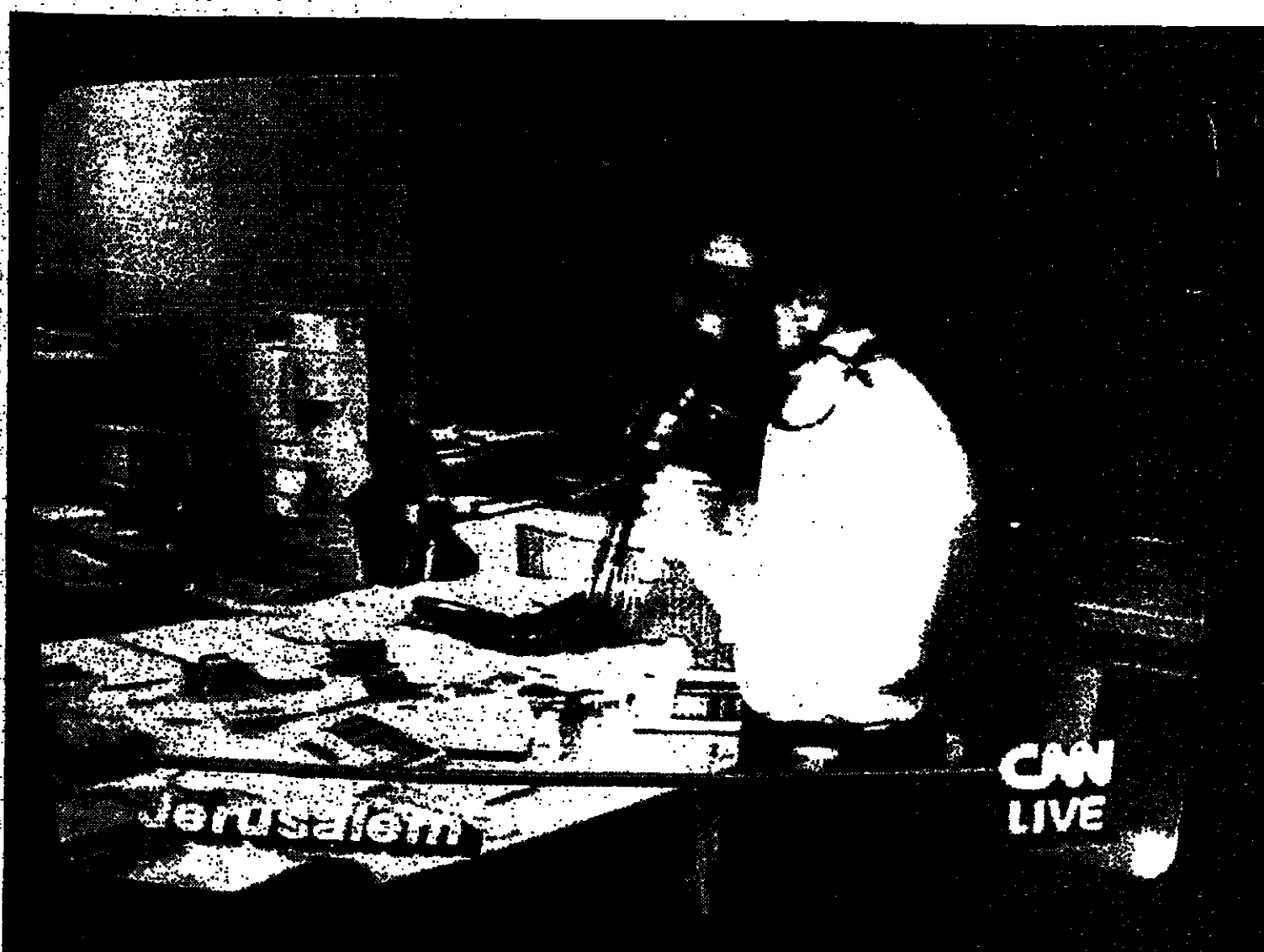
It is no surprise that it was only newspapers and news magazines that carried shocking images and full descriptions of the terrible carnage of the fleeing Iraqis caught on Kuwait's Mutha Ridge.

Similarly, it was the writers, press which carried accounts of the brutally suppressed Shia Muslim uprising in the south of Iraq, while television concentrated on the equally horrific but physically more accessible fate of the Kurds in the north.

While some would argue that one result of CNN's instant transmission of news into the living rooms of 150 countries is to sound the death knell of that endangered species, the newspaper foreign correspondent, in reality it should increase their usefulness, provided there is a realisation that a radically new approach to their work is needed.

As *Time* argued in its criticism for the man it named, with curious Washington-style pomposity, as Robert Edward Turner III, the very definition of news was re-written, during 1991, from "something that has happened" to "something that is happening at the very moment you are hearing it".

That was driven home to me in unnerving fashion in the early days of the air war last January when, on more than one occasion, the 24-hour *Times* Gulf news desk in London would anxiously ring my room in the Dharan Meidien Hotel to wake me with the warning (that they had inevitably been on CNN) that a Scud missile alert had been announced for eastern Saudi Arabia.



Front-page news from an embattled front line: CNN reporter Larry Register files his report from Jerusalem after a Scud missile attack

The proper response of a correspondent is to concentrate on digging information in areas where television cameras are unable, forbidden or unwilling to tread, and to concentrate on description, explanation and investigation.

Given that CNN whets the appetite for events in far-off places, there is no reason why the quality press cannot thrive off it. Serious viewers of CNN want to know more about what they have seen, and are often put off by the gauche Americanness of the commentary.

As yet, there are only hints that this changed approach is beginning to alter the traditional front page mix in what was Fleet Street. The change should not be wholesale, as the printed word is still needed to give home points that, in televised images, slip quickly through the mind. Papers also have a valuable function as vehicles of record that live television can never usurp.

Although CNN has matured enormously from the days when it was known derisively as "The Chicken-Noodle Network", it and the other American and British television organisations are much more open to being tools of officialdom than those whose main tools remain the pen and the notebook.

Given allowance for some professional jealousy, this was graphically illustrated by John Simpson, BBC Television's foreign editor and a model exponent of the thinking person's on-screen reporter in his first-hand account of the traumatic events in Baghdad 12 months ago this week.

"The Iraqis badly wanted the television people to stay. In particular, they wanted CNN to stay. Saddam Hussein's strategy was dependent on having American television in Baghdad who could see — and transmit — the terrible scenes he expected would take place. This was why he anticipated only two air strikes on the city. CNN would show the results to the American people, who would put such pressure on George Bush that the air war would be called off," Simpson wrote in *From The House of War*.

Authority: a British press pass

As any print reporter who has worked alongside a television team knows, television news is nothing if it does not have pictures, and its brief account of events is normally tailored to fit the pictures rather than the facts.

In war, this practice is especially dangerous, because when the pictures are deemed too shocking to be aired (it makes the mind boggle as to how CNN would have covered the liberation of Belsen), the accom-

panying description is also often omitted. "It quickly becomes war as video game, rather than war as it really is: brutal, vomit-making and often unedifying for those involved," one Western radio correspondent says.

By inadvertently helping Saddam's missile aims to adjust their coefficients, by their practice of identifying Scud targets, later halted after protest, and by going along with Allied military censorship, CNN played a major — but not always blameless — role in the public's comprehension of, and therefore attitude to, the war and its aftermath.

The macabre sight of its reporters and other television teams working in their gas masks helped to drive home the dangers of reporting the conflict. But the net result of much of the footage was to reduce understanding rather than increase it, particularly when the machinations of the military spin doctors from the Pentagon and Whitehall went unchallenged.

"History as it happens" is how *Time* characterised the output of CNN's round-the-clock news service. Newspapers are not obliged to agree with Henry Ford in order to realise that this is a slick and frequently shallow formula to which they can provide a vital complement, rather than slow-footed rivalry.

NEWSPAPERS can be a bit like Britain in the Fifties, in that, to adapt Dean Acheson's quote, they've lost their pre-eminence, and are yet to find a new role. They can't beat television to the punch, and yet nothing gets a back's blood racing as much as being first. So, when the papers start talking about more analysis, it's tempting to applaud. The trouble is they can't help sneering at the upstart newcomer, television, as they do it.

The latest incarnation of this view is that television made a mess of the Gulf war. It's fashionable to say that the coalition managed the news, "sanitising" the war, while television meekly gave way, ignoring the real issues. The heroes are the print reporters who broke the rules.

But the idea that television submitted to official control more than print did does not wash. ITN had a team unofficially based up in Khafji, Saudi Arabia, a BBC *Newsnight* team roamed freely throughout the war, and other BBC crews made unauthorised trips to Khafji during the Iraqi attack. Just before the ground war, many television networks simply ignored the rules to get the story.

They also had teams with Centrom HQ in Riyadh, and on any pool (the official journalists attached to military units) they could get. In other words, they covered every base — just as the newspapers did. No news organisation covering a story can avoid making its pacts with officialdom in exchange for access.

To say the allies "managed" the news in the Gulf war also makes one-sided a more complex game. The power of television, especially CNN, produced more openness than the military intended, or newspapers could manage. However, it is a curious feature of journalists that we get a buzz from the covert source, as if the unnamed source does not have its own agenda. CNN is also in a different category from other television, being more of a visual Reuters, putting out raw information. Treated that way, it is more asset than hindrance.

It was also television's video of the Basra Road that shook the world. It was television, including the BBC and CNN,

that of the official briefings was not bad. Pretty much what they said was happening, happened. Sure, they didn't tell us the whole story, but there was no repeat of Vietnam, with systematic deception of the media.

The military recognised that to be ultimately self-defeating. The American military learnt from Vietnam, and the only people who do not seem to have realised it were Saddam Hussein and some of the media.

But television's besetting sin was that it supposedly broadcast a "clean" Gulf war and not enough of the "reality" of war. This is, of course, code for showing bits of bodies, but is that all the reality of warfare amounts to? War is about heroism as well as fear, flag-waving as well as refugees, drama as well as death. Journalists should show it all, and let the public decide whether war is hell.

The author is defence correspondent for BBC Radio.

Many TV networks ignored the rules to get the story

TV TRUTHS

that reported the Baghdad bunker bombing, to the coalition's anger and dismay. Shocking images, full of the "reality" of war allegedly only reported by print.

In fact, the most memorable print response to the bunker bombing was by the *Daily Express*, in a story headlined "Outrage Over BBC War Bias". The editorial slant of some of the media seems to me to have had a far bigger impact on what the public were told than official arm-twisting.

Equally, television does not deserve a clean bill of health. The instant demands of live news give over-pressured reporters unrivalled opportunities for being instantly wrong, while giving a further shove to journalists' already strong tendency to sensationalise.

All this is hardly new, so why the fuss? The fact is the debate about the Gulf has a second agenda, which has little to do with the nature of print and television journalism.

Some journalists assume official information is disinformation, only exposed by fearless reporters swanning around the desert. Yet official information should be treated like any other source, and judged on its record — and that of the official briefings was not bad. Pretty much what they said was happening, happened. Sure, they didn't tell us the whole story, but there was no repeat of Vietnam, with systematic deception of the media.

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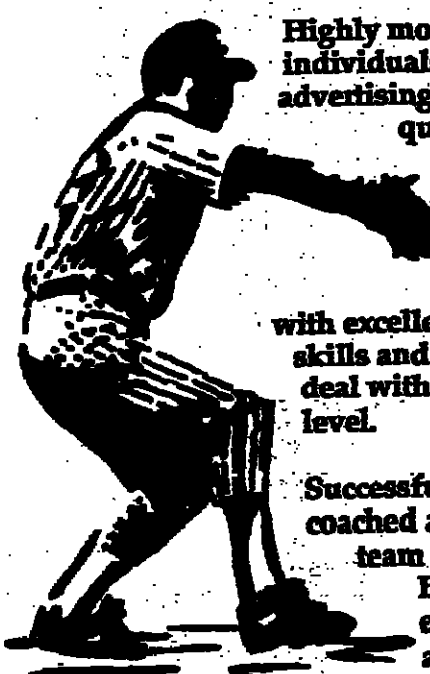
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BRIEFING

Turandot to tour

THE Royal Opera's production of Puccini's *Turandot*, seen this month at Wembley Arena, will now travel to regional venues and abroad, according to Raymond Gubbay, promoter of the Wembley venture. Manchester, Birmingham, Glasgow and Sheffield are likely candidates for a transfer, with Amsterdam possible as the first overseas stop. Gubbay appears undaunted by the moderate houses at Wembley, for ten performances, *Turandot* sold 56,000 of its 80,000 tickets. He claims to have recouped the £2.5 million invested in the experiment.

Mersey mission

HAVING only recently made its first American appearance — playing Paul McCartney's *Liverpool Oratorio* in Carnegie Hall — the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic will be back in the United States next month on an 11-city tour, under its Czech music director, Libor Pešek. The orchestra's mission is not purely musical. It is being sponsored to the tune of £150,000 by the Merseyside Development Corporation, with the overt intention of attracting American investment to Liverpool. Another British orchestra, the City of Birmingham Symphony, will be looking enviously at its northern rival. The CBSO announced last week that this spring was on the point of being abandoned, for lack of a sponsor.

Last chance...

ENGLISH National Ballet's new production of *The Nutcracker* will have clocked up 55 performances in seven weeks when its London run ends at the Festival Hall (071-928 8800) on Saturday. This is ENB's seventh different staging of the ballet since 1950. The present one, by Ben Stevenson with designs by Desmond Heeley, will now be packed away until the autumn.

ARTS REVIEWS

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THEATRE

Come back Jimmy, all is unforgiven

John Osborne was one of the first Angry Young Men. Benedict Nightingale finds that he, almost alone, has not mellowed

Max Stafford-Clark, speaking with the authority of 13 years as the Royal Court's director, recently expressed the opinion that dramatists have a pretty short working life. Shaw and Ayckbourn were the exceptions, he suggested; Congreve and Wilde nearer the norm. Nobody could look at the fluctuating fortunes of the writers who came to prominence in the 1950s and 1960s, many of them at the Court itself, without wondering if his fatalism was justified.

Most people know that Harold Pinter, the finest of them all, has written just three playlets in the last ten years, only one of which, *Party Time*, comes close to reconciling his latter-day radicalism with the earlier work. But what has become of Wesker, Nichols, Arden, Storey, and the others who created our theatrical renaissance? What of the founding father, the author of the seminal *Look Back in Anger*, John Osborne himself? Has he been doing much more than fight for the freedom to puff Turkish cigarettes?

Yes, at long last he has. His sequel to *Look Back in Anger*, *Déjàvu*, was actually due to open in Liverpool in November. Frustratingly, Osborne and Peter O'Toole, who was to perform the ageing Jimmy Porter, could not agree on cuts and the production was shelved. But Faber has now published the text and, long and cranky though it is, it left me for one longing to hear its sandblaster rhetoric come rasping over the footlights.

What has happened to Jimmy since we left him and his wife Alison whimsically comparing themselves to bears and squirrels back in 1956? For a teasing moment the answer seems to be, nothing. He and his chum Cliff slump over the Sunday papers while Alison irons, just as they did at the start of *Look Back in Anger*. But the attic flat is now the kitchen of a sprawling country house.

Jimmy, like Cliff, has greyed. Alison is his daughter by a second marriage which, like his first, has ended badly. Cliff has worked for the BBC, married a woman Jimmy thinks boringly house-proud, and sent his children to Bedales. The first Alison is now a chic actress who takes a "pack of nancy boys" to see her reading at "galas for AIDS Concern", as Jimmy sneeringly puts it.

What he himself has done since the council closed his sweet stall is unclear. The champagne seems to flow freely in Schloss Porter, so perhaps he has made a killing out of being the anti-hero of *Anger*. Certainly, there are references galore to his earlier incarnation. The white-tile university and the "white rhino", his mother-in-law, both resurface. Alison's Tory brother Nigel, "the Platitudes from Outer Space", has got himself a knighthood and a son, also called Nigel, who has become an MEP, an acronym which, Jimmy suggests, stands for Most Empty Person. He still feels there are "no brave causes left", or none braver than drinking the wine he calls Nic-raguan '89.

One common objection to Osborne's plays was that they were little more than excuses for one character to air his prejudices. There is something almost exhilaratingly bloody-minded about the snooks that *Déjàvu* cocks at such critics. It has no plot at all. True, Jimmy echoes *Anger* by alienating the new Alison and sleeping with her friend, again called Helena. He also has an offstage son in trouble for vandalising a church. But the function of the supporting cast is to listen while Jimmy, aided by a surprisingly dyspeptic Cliff, disgorges verbal stomach acid.

Perhaps that is what he has been doing since 1956. He spent the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s talking, talking, talking, and plans no sudden career change in the 1990s. How could he, when there is so much to mock? The list here includes wet vicars, trendy bishops,



Seminal: Jimmy Porter (Kenneth Haig) and Alison (Mary Ure) in John Osborne's *Look Back in Anger* at the Royal Court, 1956

education, pop concerts, "yool" culture, vegetarians, fashionable charities, feminists, gay crusaders, the smoke police, people called Charlene and Kevin, the Royal Court, arts subsidy, people "into personal growth", animal rights, Europe, sport, things ethnic, lager louts, the miners' strike, baby seals, one-parent families, and "progressives, futurologists and illiterates".

The old Jimmy, railing as he did at the Establishment, was widely mistaken for a radical. The updated one sounds like a scattershot blimp. But actually both are frustrated individualists with strong anarchic tendencies. Let any sign of group complicity appear, indeed let two or three people agree about anything at all, and Jimmy's verbal dynamite is instantly out of his travelling bag.

Naturally, this vexes others. Osborne is harder on Jimmy than in *Anger*, letting an Alison far tougher than her predecessor call him "mad and utterly horrible", "un-

loved", unlovable and unloving". Though he himself describes his anger as grief for lost decencies, "slow, gentle, not vindictive or full of spite", there is probably weight in her accusations. Some of Jimmy's everyday banter — his limbericks about sodomite writers and anal dilation — is meant seriously to offend.

But will we ever get a chance to be offended by *Déjàvu*? Though our theatre can boast of sadly few new dramatists, it can be ruthless to its older ones. The nation's children may still study Arnold Wesker's *Roots*, but impresarios resist his reshaping of *The Merchant of Venice*, *Shylock*, and his entertaining picture of paternalism in action, *The Wedding Feast*. He continues to write and is now in Chicago, supervising the production of his new *Three Women Talking*. He has not had a major London showing since *Caritas* at

the National Theatre in 1981. Peter Nichols, missing from London since *Piece of My Mind* in 1986, saw his *About Turner* ("a Jekyll and Hyde story," he says, "rather bleak") scheduled for the National, then dropped. He is now trying to sell *Ravishing*, about a trek through the Himalayas, and not very hopefully composing yet another play. At the back of his mind may be the memory of John Arden, the author of *Serjeant Musgrave's Dance* and *Live Like Pigs*, who these days writes novels, not plays. But then Arden committed a kind of conscientious suicide some years ago, abandoning the large-minded drama everybody admired for a narrow didacticism most people hated.

Arden's example would seem to support Stafford-Clark's generalisation. Yet there is evidence to refute him. Didn't London recently see Simon Gray's excellent *Hidden Laughter*? Isn't Tom Stoppard, who has busied himself with film

scripts since *Happgood* in 1988, reported to be writing a new stage play? And what of David Storey, whose theatrical career seemed to have ended with *Early Days* in 1980?

He kept writing, always mentally fashioning his work for the theatre which had achieved such success with *Home*, *The Contractor* and *Life Class*. But under his present director, Stafford-Clark himself, the Court snubbed his advances. Then in 1989 his *March on Russia* burst into the National. Now the sage theatre plans soon to present his *Stages*, with Alan Bates in the lead, and may follow it with a two-handset called *Caring*.

The moral is obvious: don't write off old trouper until they are under the sod. The final stage-direction of *Déjàvu* calls for loud martial music to counter "audience dissent". Maybe we'll get the chance to boo the 60-year-old Jimmy Porter yet.

• *Déjàvu* is published by Faber (£4.99)

HERITAGE

Cutting remarks and the concentrating power of fear

At a Christmas party Jocelyn Stevens was presented with an executioner's sword, a symbol of his past eight years as rector of the Royal College of Art and perhaps his next job, as chairman of English Heritage. He used it to bat away a hail of bread rolls that followed his speech of thanks.

"Next day I went to the English Heritage council meeting, where they were telling me how they liked to let their hair down at Christmas. 'Chuckling bread rolls about, I suppose?' I said. 'Oh no, nothing as childish as that,' they said. 'You have to have a sense of fun.'"

His idea of fun for the last eight years has been to transform entirely the Royal College of Art, and he promises to

Jocelyn Stevens, about to take over as head of English Heritage, talks to Simon Tait

do the same to English Heritage when he becomes chairman on April 1. According to Stevens, English Heritage is highly inefficient, overstuffed and in the wrong place.

His appointment to succeed Lord Montagu was announced last August, and since then he has attended every monthly council meeting. "Up on the top floor I found a notice announcing my appointment, with giant red arrows pointing at it: 'The Piranha is coming!' Honest-

ly, with a reputation like that, half the job is done before I get there."

Stevens thrives on the adrenalin of other people's fear. At his third meeting of the EH council he asked a question: "What is the mission?" "They all looked very puzzled and wanted to know what I meant. I said it was simple: was the mission to save buildings or to keep giving themselves healthy pay rises and living in pleasant accommodation? It confused them so much I had to promise not to ask the question again until April 1."

He hates bureaucracy and waste, both of which he believes English Heritage is guilty of. "There is a civil service attitude which is about looking after one's own position, and that has to go."

English Heritage itself will have to go, too, out of London. "There are 1,700 members of staff occupying hugely expensive offices in the West End, about as costly as you can get. They need to be out, where the heritage is, around the country."

"The image is a very forbidding one, and English Heritage has to be accessible, reaching out, looking as if it really cares about the heritage and protecting it. Instead it's got a reputation for blocking things," he says. "Even the head office is called Fortress House and the logo, that crenellated square, is hopeless."

Between April 1 and July 31 Stevens's jobs will overlap, and he will use the RCA to declare some of his intentions for the other. "There's going to be an exhibition called *England in Aspic* which will ask a question: 'Is this country one big heritage centre in which all progress should stop?'"

He has even annoyed some by remarking in council that the fight to save the building on Number One Poultry, the Mappin and Webb site in the City of London, was wrong and that the Mies van der Rohe building Lord Palumbo originally wanted to build on it might have been a worthy replacement for an "undistinguished" Victorian building. The protectionist lobby, he believes, is too powerful and English Heritage has not been bold enough to stand up to it.

When Stevens became rector of the RCA in 1984 he had a letter from the minister for higher education telling him that unless drastic changes were made, the college might be closed. He made the changes.



Jocelyn Stevens: "With a reputation like mine, half the job is done before I get there."

tor of the RCA in 1984 he had a letter from the minister for higher education telling him that unless drastic changes were made, the college might be closed. He made the changes.

The college is now nearly all on one site, with a new £12 million development called the Stevens Building; sponsorship has risen to such an extent that 25 per cent of income is now non-government; fees have been raised to nearer actual cost level; last year academic staff rose by 8.6 per cent, student applications for this academic year were up 27 per cent and applications from Europe rose 78 per cent. Stevens likes to call the RCA the European University of Art and Design.

His legacy to his still unnamed successor is to leave the Royal College of Art with

none of the accommodation problems which beset it in the past. But from next academic year the college will have to fight alongside the universities for its government grant from the higher education funding council, instead of receiving a direct grant from the education department.

"As to the staff, I wouldn't swap any of them," he says. I reminded him that he had already swapped most of them several times. "I wouldn't swap them again, then," he replies.

English Heritage's staff can look forward to similar pruning. "Marcus Binney wrote that one of my tasks would be to stop the best people leaving, and I'm afraid it might be too late. More a question of getting them back. English Heritage is hugely inefficient. What it needs is fewer, better people who care about the heritage."

LONDON INTERNATIONAL MIME FESTIVAL

Some of the right moves

A dozen years ago the art of mime meant, to most British theatre-goers, one person only: Marcel Marceau. And one style only: silent, white-faced, trapped within the narrow range of emotions between panic and pathos. For Bip, Marceau's most famous creation, entrapment was the mode of life. Invisible walls closed in upon him; a smiling mask stuck to his face and could not be torn off.

The smile was his own, of course, and the contrast between his writhing limbs and the persistent grin suggested, well, what exactly? The pain of fitting in with the world, perhaps. Bip always had trouble with the world.

The sight of a red flower might bring a moment's cheer but no happiness would outlast the moment. Marceau was an artist of outstanding physical precision but his art took mime into a cul de sac, a black and white world of primary but limited expression.

Look around at the style of the participants in the London International Mime Festival now in its 15th year. They talk, they sing, they dance, they clown: there are acrobats, jugglers, conjurers. They will almost certainly all be expert in twisting their bodies into most peculiar shapes, and showing emotion with the roll of an eye or a twitch of the nose. But has the range of these emotions fundamentally altered?

Superficially, yes. Today's mimes inhabit the world of today, where people chafe at office work, rage at their spouses, set off on holidays, cook each other meals, plot revenge, are sexually abused, love, daydream and die. All human life would seem to be there, in one or other of the score of companies and solo performers currently display-

Jeremy Kingston looks at the ways in which mime has expanded its scope and asks whether more is possible

ing their skills. More interaction takes place than in the performances by Marceau, who did make use of assistants but never equals. For its pictures of the hazards of modern society *Théâtre de Complicité* can call on the 30 or more players who have at various times appeared under its banner. *Glee* is an emotion nowadays to be seen — though invariably, if memory serves, it disintegrates into mayhem and panic.

Historically, dumb-show was not the essential fact of mime, and the re-introduction of speech could have made possible subtler nuances of feeling. Life is not only black and white but complicated combinations of all the colours in between, and it is those complications of human response, the troublesome ambivalence, that speaking mime seldom addresses.

Take *Ave Maria*, the solo show by Linda Kerr Scott at the ICA Theatre. An excellent

actress, unforgettably poignant yet perky as the *Dummy* in *Ghetto*, agile and adroit, she here portrays a disappointed spinster who is trapped (inevitably) in a tenement room, and trapped within her narrow range of fantasies.

Perched six feet off the ground at a sewing table, she is tying socks, cardies and other clothes, but also cereal packets, beer cans and a tea-strainer: to a enormous cloth that sweeps down to the ground like a coronation robe worn back to front. "It's a multi-purpose blanket for the world," are her first words. She shuffles about the place in her fake giraffe-head slippers, skitters into the audience to represent a virgin to church, addresses the Virgin and moderns, as she puts it, the "user" her body was never put to.

Too scared of hell to have risked enjoyment, she lets out her scolding rage on an upturned chair which she stabs to death. Yes, she looks unhappy and, yes, she sounds distressed and, yes, her performance was hailed at the Edinburgh Festival.

But not only are her predicaments the familiar ones of the harassed misfit but their expression is superficial, uninvolved and somehow incomplete. As spoken mime approaches the province of drama, physical agility must obtain dramatic structure.

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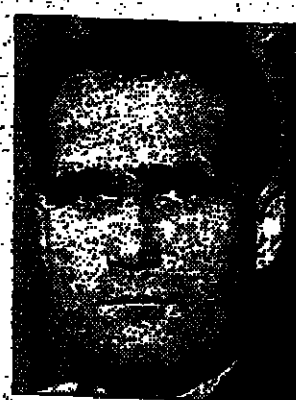
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Truth or dare, from left: did Maxwell jump; Hess act alone; Wilson spy for the Soviets; Ceausescu escape death; and who slept with Marilyn Monroe?

Thickening the plots

Who killed Kennedy? Was Wilson a spy? Maxwell: a fall or a push? Joe Joseph reports on plots and paranoia

These are feverish times for conspiracy theorists. Sometimes you sit, quietly worrying that perhaps the world's conspiracy theorists are losing their grip on reality, when something comes along to show you that, actually, they are going clean round the bend.

The death of Robert Maxwell, the collapse of the drug-money-laundering Bank of Credit and Commerce International, the spooky way you feel faint if you do your de up very, very tightly and then hold your breath — every thing nowadays is food for hysterical plot-lancers. Paranoia is everywhere. It will spread when JFK, Oliver Stone's new film on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, arrives in Britain next week.

Stone has pointed his finger at a new suspect. His premise seems to be that just about everyone remembers what they were doing when Kennedy was shot, because just about everyone was involved in the plot. The events of November 22, 1963, have a simple explanation. But before we reveal what really happened, let us unravel some other great mysteries.

Robert Maxwell: After Maxwell fell from his yacht on November 5, some said he took his life, knowing that the Serious Fraud Office and debt-collectors from the Swiss Bank Corp were on to him. Or was he knocked off by secret agents from Moscow? The KGB, M15, the Stasi? Did he take heart attack simulation pills to trick life insurers into paying up for his suicide? A Spanish judge chose natural causes. An autopsy in Israel found signs that he was attacked. *Paris Match* magazine reports. **Correct answer:** Maxwell

taken his own big splash, using a double. He has since started a new life in Brazil, doing "home visit" haircuts, perms and tints for busy Rio socialites. He likes to boast to clients that he used to trim Henry Kissinger's sideburns.

The Soviet Coup: Was Mikhail Gorbachev the force behind August's coup against himself? Did Gorbachev plot with the hardliners in the hope of rescuing the union? Did he fool the plotters into thinking that he was one of them, but with the secret aim of flushing out his real enemies?

Correct answer: Gorbachev did indeed join the plot to save the union, but he thought it was the Credit Union in which party bigwigs kept their savings. The union was run by Robert Maxwell, and word was out that the cash was at risk. He had gone to Crimea to get his paying-in book when all hell broke loose back in Moscow.

Rudolph Hess: Was there a doppelgänger? Why, in 1941, did Hess, Hitler's deputy and confidant, fly to Scotland — and into a life of captivity? Did Hitler know? Was Hess's purpose, as the Russians suspected, to propose an attack on Russia? Why was a prison requiring a staff of 105 needed to guard him?

Correct answer: Hess was smuggled out from Spandau to New Jersey in 1953 and worked as a short-order cook in a Trenton hamburger bar. He became famous for always forgetting to put chocolate sprinkles on the ice cream sundaes. "Where are the sprinkles, Rudy?" became his catchphrase.

The Harold Wilson Smear: Soviet spy? Was 10 Downing Street a communist cell? The material was piled high. By M15? He visited Moscow, for heaven's sake. Was Hugh Gaitskill murdered in 1963 by the KGB to make way for Wilson? Peter Wright, a former M15 officer, confessed that he had filed false evidence to substantiate anti-Wilson smears. Colin Wallace, another intelligence



Everyone remembers what they were doing: plotting to kill Kennedy

officer, claimed to know of an M15 operation that also tried to rock the government. But in 1987 Margaret Thatcher said an M15 enquiry had found no evidence of an anti-Wilson conspiracy.

Correct answer: Yes, Wilson was an agent though he never made dead-letter drops. Instead, he sent messages to Moscow by smoke signals from his pipe when interviewed on the BBC Nine O'Clock News. He was al-

most found out once when his pipe accidentally went out, a coded "disaster" signal, before they could be stopped, the Russians had built Milton Keynes.

Romania: Who really overthrew Nicolae Ceausescu? What about this: it took Romanians years to realise that life under a dictator was a pain, but when they realised it they were mad as hell. The National Salvation Front was installed as a replacement amid cheers and turmoil. But was the havoc a clever front for a palace coup? Did Moscow set the ball rolling? What happened to the Securitate officers who spread terror during the revolution and then vanished?

Correct answer: Ceausescu was treasurer of the local Credit Union and got greedy (see above). He escaped death and now acts in Iraqi television commercials for an onomatopoeic cough mixture called "Ceausescu". Mrs Ceausescu is waitressing in Baghdad.

BCCI: Quite a few of the bankrupt Bank of Credit and Commerce International's 3,000 customers were sleazy crooks. But some intelligence agencies from some of the world's most pukka governments were entangled in the mess. What were they getting out of it? Was the mafia in there too? And the CIA?

Correct answer: BCCI started as the kitty for a Tuesday night poker game. Players started borrowing at high interest rates to cover their gambling debts. Things finally got out of hand one night when one declared "Kings high", and Mary

King, a well-known spy working undercover, keeled over and died from a heroin overdose. King had never unmasked anyone and was useless at cards, but the bank was well on its way.

Marilyn Monroe: Did you believe the theory about Bobby Kennedy sleeping with Monroe just before she died? Really, it was like this. William Roemer, a former FBI agent, says wiretap evidence suggests that in the week before she died Monroe had sex simultaneously with Frank Sinatra and Sam Giancana, the mafia boss. Rubbish, says Sinatra's public relations agent. So who didn't sleep with Monroe just before she died? And how did she find the time to take an overdose?

Correct answer: Boo-boo-he-doop.

So Who Did Kill Kennedy? A lone lunatic? The FBI? Mafia hoodlums? A survey found that 56 per cent suspected some sort of conspiracy. Only 19 per cent agreed with the Warren Commission's conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone. A Washington select committee said there was a 95 per cent probability of a conspiracy. Everyone thinks big in America, but Stone thinks bigger than most. He blames everybody: the FBI, the CIA, the army, the media, the navy, anti-Castro Cubans, the military-industrial complex, and the hawks in Kennedy's own government, apparently angry because Kennedy was about to withdraw all Americans from Vietnam. **Correct answer:** John Kennedy never died. It was all just a bad dream Bobby had in the shower.

JFK, opens on January 24.

All the president's men? Government hawks were suspected of wanting to kill Kennedy

Auntie takes on the agony

Margaret Salmon, embodiment of the BBC's new purge on racism and sexism, has a novel approach to the vexing business of finding a meaningful definition of sexual harassment: she does not try. "Why do we need to?" she asks, coolly. "People actually have a very clear idea of what they mean by it. We can all list examples. It's only around the periphery that definitions blur. The core of the problem we all agree."

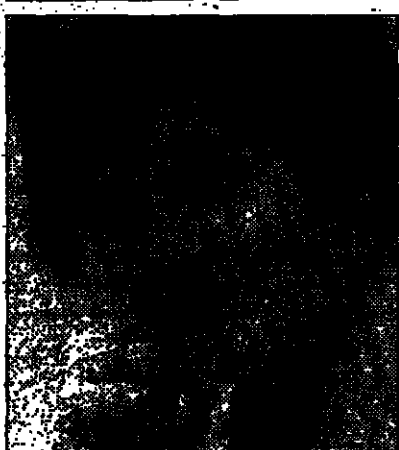
Well aware that what one woman may take as a compliment can be insulting to another, and of the voyeuristic interest that the subject arouses, Mrs Salmon is perhaps wise to take refuge in generalities. For the one student who had her bottom pinched by George Moore, and said she felt "rather honoured that my behind should have drawn the attention of the great master of English prose", there were probably a dozen others who would have reported him to the senate. "I am talking about any sort of behaviour — sexual or racially driven or religious harassment — that is unacceptable to the person on the receiving end," Mrs Salmon explains.

Her manifesto goes further. As the head of personnel at the BBC, she has supplied all 25,000 employees with a booklet telling them how to make complaints and urging them to report anything from blue jokes to demands for sexual favours. It says: "Non-verbal conduct such as the display of certain pictures, pin-ups or written material can also make people feel uncomfortable, can cause offence and can be regarded as a form of harassment."

Mrs Salmon is, apparently, quite unusual in her approach. A recent survey, conducted by the University of Manchester's Institute of Science and Technology among 110 British organisations, reports that 89 per cent of personnel directors had not issued a policy statement on management's attitude to sexual harassment.

How big, one wonders, is the problem

Why the BBC's staff need a booklet on unacceptable behaviour



Almost evangelical: Margaret Salmon

within the BBC, where women make up 42 per cent of the workforce? Here, Mrs Salmon, becomes almost evangelical. "It doesn't matter how big it is. It exists. It is the perception of the individual which is important. Obviously, we've got quite a lot of anecdotal information. But not the sort of anecdotes she wishes to discuss publicly."

She is patient about the overriding interest in her campaign against sexual impropriety at work, which forms just a small proportion of her work in the field of equal opportunities. She took up the job ten months ago — a position that made her the first woman member of the BBC's main board.

But the campaign was long overdue. The unions claim the BBC had ignored the issue of sexual harassment for years. "We could only take complaints so far," Christina Driver, the industrial

officer specialising in equal opportunities, says, "because usually the harasser would be a senior person and there was no protection against victimisation. So although we knew there was a problem — the same names would keep coming up — the management was able to deny it because there were no formal complaints."

One producer, she says, made passes at a woman who froze him out. His response was to complain that she was incompetent and lacking in team spirit. "Under the new code it will be possible to fire a warning shot across the bows of a man who is being offensive."

Mrs Salmon, aged 44, says she is lucky never to have been a victim of sexual harassment. "Maybe I've just been fortunate in the organisation I've worked with [W.H. Smith, Debenhams, Burton's]. In the retail trade they were used to employing women."

She was less fortunate in her husband's choice of timing last week. No sooner had she launched her campaign than he was quoted as saying that he thought rigid, highly-publicised complaints procedures unnecessary and possibly detrimental to happy office life. Michael Salmon, aged 46, a management consultant, said: "If someone has done a good job I might want to give them a kiss to show appreciation. That could be interpreted as harassment."

His wife purported to be unfazed. "What he said goes to the heart of the debate. It is a perfectly legitimate point of view and I have had many people express it. Where I disagree is on the extent of the problem. Maybe it isn't a big problem in the organisations he is familiar with, but I don't care how big or small the problem is. I know it exists and has to be taken seriously."

Was she discomfited by her husband's attitude? Not at all. "But perhaps he will be more guarded in future."

ELIZABETH GRICE

Renewed growth

GARDENING, it appears, is an attractive career for women wanting to return to work, full or part-time, after raising a family. In response to many enquiries from women returners, the Women's Farm and Garden Association has launched the "Women Returners to Amateur Gardening" scheme, together with a training gardens register, and will try to match garden and gardener. Gardeners will work part-time for a year at a trainee rate, under the supervision of

AND BRIEFLY

an experienced gardener. Details from the WFGA, 175 Gloucester Street, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 2PD (0285 658339).

Healthy beans

AN "organic chocolate", produced in France, is now available in Britain by mail order through the Chocolate Society. Green & Black's organic chocolate comes from cacao beans grown without the use of pesticides or fungicides, and in conditions which avoid the forest destruction which the usual intensive planting involves. But does it taste good? The

society's connoisseurs call it "a triumph of the chocolate's art". Its 70 per cent of cocoa solids mean that the chocolate is relatively low in sugar, and it contains no hydrogenated fat. Details on this and other chocolates and chocolate-making equipment are available from Chantal Coody of Roccoo Chocolates and of the society, 321 King's Road, London SW3 5EP, telephone 071-352 5857.

Exit, Liz

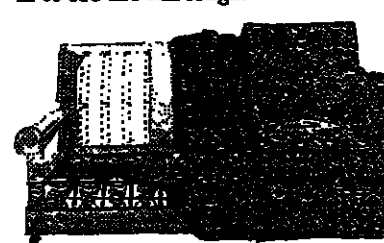
ONE of the most glamorous last duties in Britain of Liz Tilberis, the outgoing *Vogue* editor, before she takes up her

editorship of *Harper's Bazaar* in America, will be to co-chair the royal gala of the film *The Prince of Tides*, which will take place in the presence of the Princess of Wales on Tuesday, February 18, for the benefit of the AIDS Crisis Trust. Admission to the premiere is a mere £5 — but the "suggested donation" will bring that to a minimum of £25, and up to £135 for the best seats, from which, presumably, the princess may be seen. Tickets will be allocated on a "first come, first served" basis. Ticket application forms may be obtained from: AIDS Crisis Trust, 38 Ebury Street, London SW1 W0LU, telephone 071-730 0103.

VICTORIA MCKEE

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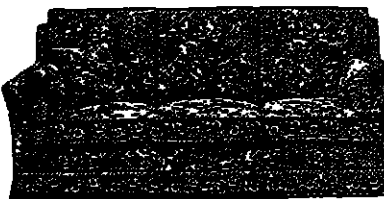
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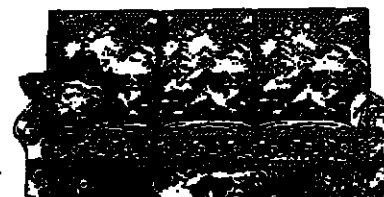
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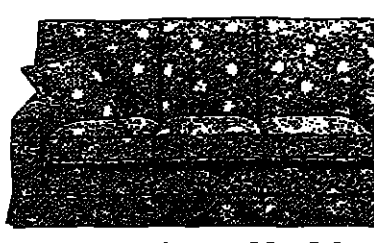
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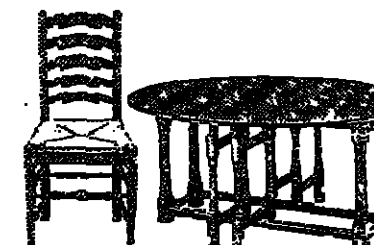


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near St. James Church.
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Classical culture

Richard Morrison
on common sense in
the arts curriculum

For the moment at least, school music teachers have been saved from the prospect of giving lessons on reggae, ragas and *Rigoletto* in quick succession, or possibly simultaneously. Art teachers will not need to brush up on "Aboriginal dream maps". After a year of worry and wrangling about how music and art are taught in state schools, the National Curriculum Council took a step towards sanity this week. It reasserted the primacy of the Western cultural heritage in the British school curriculum, and so overturned the views of the educational "experts" on its own music and art working groups.

Last year, these experts fudged the decision of what children should study, in favour of a wimpy series of "anything goes" options (Michael Jackson, for instance, might be as "valid" a subject as Beethoven), coupled to a tired old "self-expression" educational philosophy. Musical literacy, the key to nearly all performance and understanding, would no longer rigorously be taught; children would magically "discover" literacy through their own compositions.

Now the council has administered some old-fashioned thracks across the experts' knuckles. The art working party, it says, paid too little attention to Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo and other Western artists believed to be of merit. Similarly, the music working party undersold the vast heritage of European classical music, following the false premise that if you offer pop and rap, children might follow.

In short, the council's conclusions reinforce the feeling that, to some extent, the working groups were hijacked by the race-relations and equal-opportunities lobbies. Fashionable, "politically correct" views were preferred to proven educational methods. Educationists put Polynesian nose-flute music on a par with J.S. Bach, even if they did not know the first thing about Polynesian music.

Predictably, the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers decried the council's stance as "over the top"; the council has not considered that "hundreds of thousands of our schoolchildren are not of European descent". But why should that matter? Teaching is about opening doors to new knowledge, not reinforcing ghetto mentalities. The British cannot go on forever carrying the old burden of colonial guilt about "imposing" European culture on the world. Children should be taught in the tradition teachers best understand.

Others have been horrified by the targets set for different age-groups: seven-year-olds, for instance, are expected to "listen to and talk about" Tchaikovsky and Mozart, and "respond to" Henry Moore and Leonardo da Vinci (Jackson Pollock, thank goodness, is reserved for teenagers). If you went out into the street, the doubters ask, how many adults would you find who could respond cogently to a Moore sculpture or a Stravinsky concerto? This, however, is precisely the point. Millions are effectively cut off from appreciating classical music or great painting and sculpture because they have not been shown how to enjoy the arts at school, and so feel inadequate to meet their challenges. Consequently, the serious arts are regarded as elitist, and considered too "divisive" to be taught. And so the vicious circle of exclusion continues.

The great heritage of Western culture is a treasure-chest that each generation discovers anew. Why do educationists conspire to hide the key from our children? We are turning out school-leavers who are philistines through no fault of their own. The curriculum council's brave decisions come not a moment too soon.

The Maxwell brothers have blatantly defied Parliament's authority, argues Lord St John of Fawsley

There is no right to silence



Silent testimony: Kevin (left) and Ian Maxwell on Monday

freedom of speech, and both rights exist not for the gratification of egos, but to protect the liberties and rights of British subjects. As part of Parliament, select committees are equally unfettered and are subject only to such limitations as the Speaker interpreting the conventions of the House may judge it right to impose.

So in refusing to answer questions about their activities, the Maxwell brothers are directly challenging the status and authority of Parliament. They have been charged with no criminal offence and cannot therefore claim the benefit of the *sub judice* rule.

If they felt that interrogation by the committee would be unfair,

they could have approached the matter in a quite different way. They could have asked the select committee to exclude the television cameras; they could have requested the exclusion of members of the press; they could have asked for part of their evidence to be kept out of the report — and have thus avoided thwarting the committee's authority.

What then can the committee do to enforce its will? Once again the constitutional principle is clear. A select committee has never had any power to enforce a sanction such as imprisonment or other penalty. That belongs to the House of Commons as a whole. The chairman of the select committee can now go to the floor of the House and put it to the Speaker that in the opinion of the committee a contempt of the House has been committed. The Speaker will then consider the matter, and if he decides there is a *prima facie* case that such an offence may have been

committed, he must give any motion put down by the chairman priority over all other business. The Whips offices have nothing to do with this: it is a matter for Parliament as a whole.

A motion might take the form of a declaration that a contempt of the House had been committed or that the matter should be referred to the committee of privileges. Alternatively the Speaker might refer the matter straight away to the committee, with a request that a reply be made within a limited period of time.

That is the constitutional position, but what should Frank Field and his committee actually do? In my opinion they must without delay raise the matter on the floor of the House. They must demand that Parliament assert its right to question any citizen in the land from the greatest to the smallest. If they fail to do so, they will be delivering a body-blow not only to the select committee system, but to parliamentary government itself.

The author is master of Emmanuel College, Cambridge.

George Bush's toughest opponents in New Hampshire will not be his rival candidates, says Peter Stothard

President Bush will today tread cautiously into the lair of Mrs Mackey Loeb, the wheelchair-bound widow who owns New Hampshire's only state-wide newspaper. Since 1952, no one has become president without first winning the New Hampshire primary, and next month's result will be especially critical for him.

In the past few weeks, *The Manchester Union Leader* has dubbed Mr Bush dumb, a betrayer and the great pretender to conservative values, while strongly backing Patrick Buchanan, his Republican challenger. Mr Buchanan's support has now risen to 30 per cent among Republican voters in the state, only 16 points behind the president.

The power — in many cases amounting to monopoly — of the regional press in a country without a national press should not be underestimated, although the *Leader* has only a share in New Hampshire's king-making. It is rivalled by Manchester's state-wide television station, WMUR, which practises a studied neutrality owing more to Lord Reith than William Loeb. Television advertisements are growing in importance, even in a state where voters take personal contact with potential presidents for granted.

Mrs Loeb's most recent onslaught on the president is considered here as less severe than some earlier attacks. In 1980, for example, the *Union Leader* described Mr Bush as a "spoon-fed little rich kid". And that was kinder than "dopey Dwight" Ford, Nelson "Rocky the wife swapper" Rockefeller, or Henry Kissinger "the Kike". But, as local primary-watchers point out, the election is still a month away, and Mr Bush has yet to arrive.

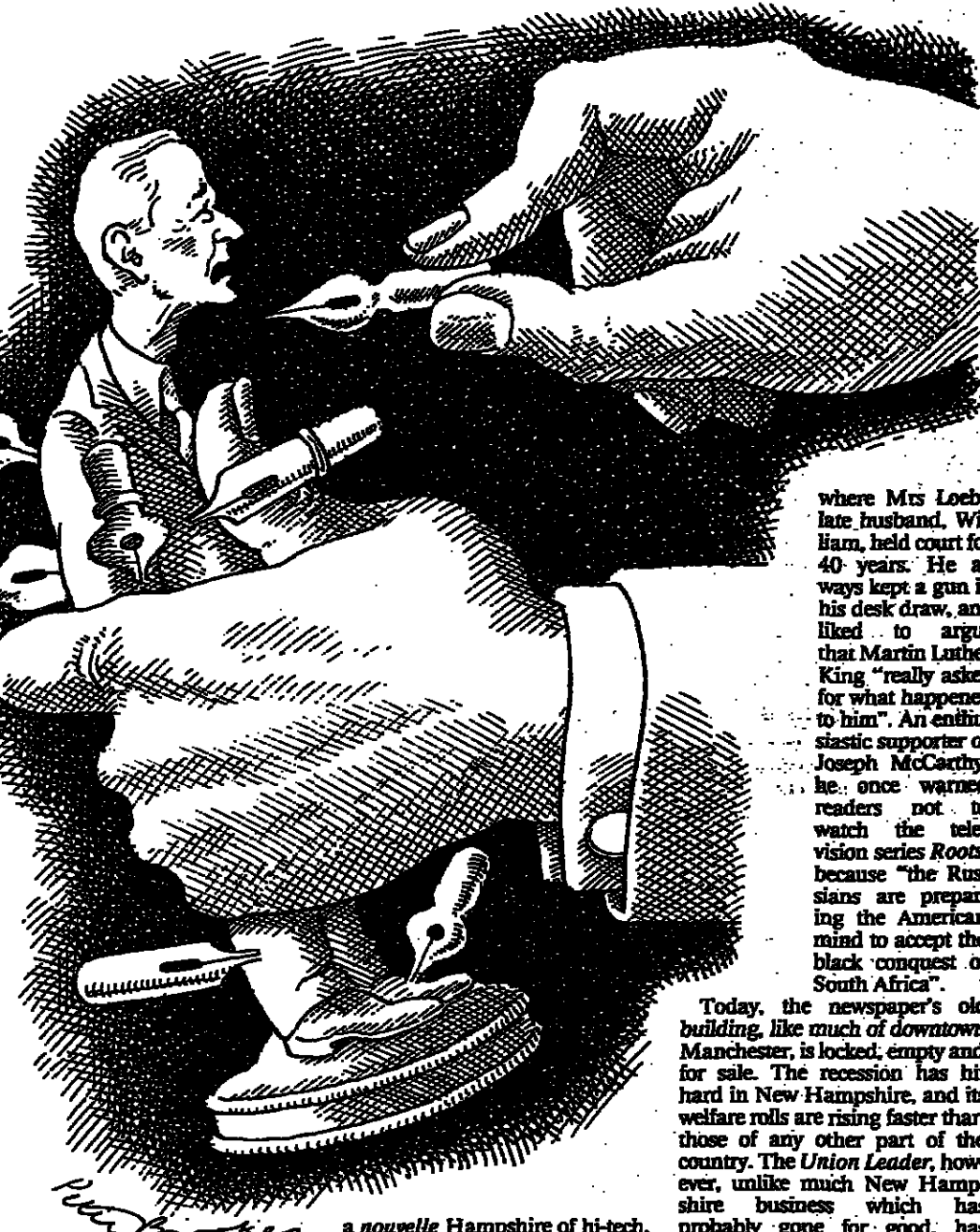
In the president's modest New Hampshire headquarters — a vacant downtown shop between the Saly Dog bar and Kim's

Acupressure "Relief from Pain" Body Balance — workers are philosophical about the enmity of the paper that most voters here read. You can win if the *Leader* is against you; you can win if it is for you; but you can't win if it ignores you," says Mrs Gerry Porter, who wears her "Bush 89" watch like a charm against evil spirits. "I'm afraid that Mrs Loeb is solemnly behind our opponent," Mrs Porter continues, with characteristic New England understatement.

While gently trashing Mr Bush (on Monday, Mrs Loeb called his Japan trip "a lemon"), the *Union Leader* has been vigorously promoting Mr Buchanan, whose speechwriting and policy-making efforts for presidents Nixon and Reagan it has long praised, and whose conservative editorials it once used to print. Indeed without the backing of *The Manchester Union Leader*, Mr Buchanan would probably still be working as a journalist.

Mrs Loeb sees the long-shot challenger as just the sort of courageous, gentlemanly, anti-tax, anti-abortion, anti-Japanese president the country needs. Flattering colour photographs of Mr Buchanan have dominated the front pages; he was even there on the day that the paper's dearest wish in its 129-year history came to pass and the Soviet Union died.

Mr Bush, by contrast, is caricatured, with his face obliterated on television like the victim in the Kennedy rape trial: "Maybe I was a little reckless, maybe I should have been more conservative, but that's no excuse: Patrick Buchanan assaulted me," the president is depicted as saying.



New Hampshire is an old-fashioned state, seemingly becoming more so by the day. Four years ago, when its backing for a "read my lips: no new taxes" message propelled Mr Bush on his journey to the White House, the economy was booming. It was

a *nouvelle* Hampshire of hi-tech, low-tax dreams, in which the *Union Leader's* backing of another, conservative outsider, Pete Du Pont, seemed curmudgeonly and quaint.

The newspaper (motto: "There is nothing so powerful as truth") was then still housed in its old red-brick colonial, city-centre offices,

where Mrs Loeb's late husband, William, held court for 40 years. He always kept a gun in his desk drawer, and liked to argue that Martin Luther King "really asked for what happened to him". An enthusiastic supporter of Joseph McCarthy, he once warned readers not to watch the television series *Roots*, because "the Russians are preparing the American mind to accept the Black conquest of South Africa".

Today, the newspaper's old building, like much of downtown Manchester, is locked, empty and for sale. The recession has hit hard in New Hampshire, and its welfare rolls are rising faster than those of any other part of the country. The *Union Leader*, however, unlike much New Hampshire business which has probably gone for good, has moved to spectacular new offices on the city's edge. Among the elegantly framed photographs is one of Mrs Loeb discussing affairs of state with Ronald Reagan, her wheelchair decked with the stars and stripes. Business is not exactly booming, but political confidence is high. Mrs

Loeb is a kinder critic than her husband was. A loved and revered figure to many, she can plan her campaign against the president from a castle of which any giant-killer could be proud.

New Hampshire, which has lost much in the past five years, clings all the more tenaciously to its self-legislated right to hold the nation's first primary and so provide the all-important momentum, the appearance of doing better than expected, which can push a candidate to ultimate success. Originally the primary was early so that farmers could vote at their annual town meetings before the thaw made the roads impassable; by now it has become a source of enormous national power. This year, with the earlier Iowa caucuses made almost irrelevant by the inevitable victory of local senator Tom Harkin, its influence is all the greater.

George Bush will be all too aware that New Hampshire can launch unknowns into sudden stardom and hurt the over-confident. The careers of Eugene McCarthy in 1968, George McGovern in 1972 and Gary Hart in 1984 were made here. Those of Lyndon Johnson, even though he did not officially fight the 1968 primary, and Edmund Muskie, who famously wept in front of the *Union Leader* building after 420 column inches of attacks from William Loeb in 1972, died here. That is why there is a "Bush blitz", for which volunteers have been asked to sign their names, and it is why the president is here today.

Mr Bush has always been afraid of his right wing. As vice-president, in December 1985, he tried to appease the *Union Leader* by speaking at a Washington dinner in posthumous praise of William Loeb, his tormentor. Patrick Buchanan, who was in the audience that night, was one of the first people invited to dinner at the White House when Mr Bush became president. Whatever happens before February 18, neither Mrs Loeb nor Mr Buchanan is likely soon to repay the favour.



...and moreover
ALAN COREN

Like most of you, I can remember when you could go to Surinam on a Saturday night, have a slap-up fish dinner for two, see a film, get your hair cut, buy a cigar, and still have change out of vifj en twintig gulden.

No longer. The vifj en twintig gulden note is now worthless. Indeed, its very valuelessness has passed into folkloric decision: pause at any skipping-ropes in the playgrounds of Paramaribo, and you will hear even the tiniest children chanting, "Vifj en twintig gulden baked in a pie!"

Things are as bad in Mozambique. Until quite recently, if you flashed a cem escudo note in a Maputo department store, assistants would flock. Stick a cemille on the counter, and you could walk out with an entire spring outfit, plus matching tuffer. They would probably chuck in a pair of designer espadrilles. Not today, though. If you tried it today, they would put an arm-lock on you and call the bogies.

I have one such note before me as I write. But despite the fact that it has D Administrator written on it as well as D Governador, the signatures of these two pillars of Mozambican probity are now, I fear, quite meaningless. What it ought to have written on it is D Tempora and D Mores, because the only way you can get this 100-escudo note these days is by pulling it off the page of *The Sunday Times* with which it was, last weekend, distributed free.

Just as Surinam's vifj en twintig gulden item came gummed bukshee, next day, to *The Times*. Quite why our two greatest newspapers should have decided to do this I am not prepared to discuss, since it is generally unwise to put Mr Murdoch's good nature to the test, and I should not wish to find myself facing a golden handshake consisting of banknotes issued by the Confederate States of America. It may be that my employer, in this election year, is offering some sly subtextual advice to Norman Lamont, it may be that one of his acolytes — currently spreadeagled in the Gobi — recently sold some Murdoch company to a seafaring man with one leg who hopped into his office with a big tin cashbox and Rupert is now making the most of a bad job by promotional redistribution, it may even be that, as far as the MGN pension fund is concerned, we still don't know the half of it, but whatever the reason, a vast amount of fiduciary iffiness has this week been unloaded, willy-nilly, on to you, me, and countless other top people.

Now, in the normal course of events, a lot of stuff falls out of our newspapers — offers of hand-bewn Bavarian chiming-clocks, of mobile-home insurance, of titchy silver Bugattis, of cut-price windsurfing weekends, of AA porcelain rodents, of handsome socket-sets, of rotten old bestsellers by the clubload — and all such glossy blandishments may cheerily be binned without a second

thought, unless it be for the ozone layer directly above the council incinerator.

But I am unable to do that with money. Throwing money away is like throwing money away. Put it down to anal retentiveness, or to the endemic insecurity of hackery, or to a deprived childhood — when I was a kid, we were so poor we couldn't even afford jokes about how poor we were; every day I had to walk ten miles to school without a hot wisecrack — but the cause is immaterial compared with the effect.

There is just something about taking a mint crisp, 100-escudo note, holding its delicate tracery against the light to check the watermark, and then crumpling it up and bunging into Sunday's embers. Why I was able to do that with the expensive newspaper which bore it but not with the worthless thing it bore, who can say? Fiscal totalitarianism is an arcane Johnny.

So that night I put the cem escudos carefully in a desk drawer, and on Monday I laid the vifj en twintig carefully alongside it, not because I hoped that time's whirling might reinstate them and allow me to nip down to Mozambique and Surinam and begin chucking the stuff about like a drunken sailor, but because there was no alternative.

Not any escape. Next Sunday, I see, I am to receive no fewer than militants, news which will stagger Peruvian exiles unaltered to currency's whims. Back in the days when an inti was an inti, that was real money.

Gathering storm

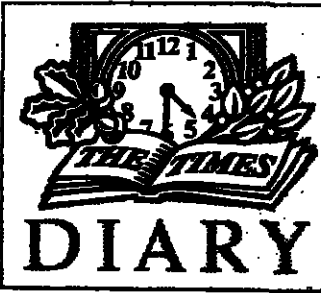
CHURCHILL'S former bodyguard has hit out furiously at the BBC's four-part documentary life which begins tonight. In the final episode of the series, Wendy Reeves, the so-called "champagne sex kitten" talks about her relationship with the statesman to whom, she has claimed, she "never said no".

Mrs Reeves is "cashing in on Sir Winston", says Edmund Murray, who guarded Churchill from 1950 until his death in 1965. "Mrs Reeves is distorting the truth. She is making Sir Winston into some sort of pimp."

Murray always accompanied Churchill to La Pausa in the south of France during the three year period when Sir Winston stayed with the Texan ex-model and her lover, the Hungarian financier and millionaire, Emery Reves. Even at the time, Sergeant Murray was called upon by the family to deny gossiping reports in the press. Now he has come to the family's defence once more. Murray says: "Mrs Reeves makes innuendos about a sexual relationship. I know that is not true. Sir Winston was an old man." Murray is also upset by Mrs Reeves' dismissal of Lady Churchill as "cold" and her description of the Churchills' relationship as no more than "a myth of a marriage".

He also denies that Lady Churchill was a frequent guest of the Reves. She only stayed twice and that was when Sir Winston caught "flu in that cold, soulless house."

Martin Gilbert, author of the series *Churchill: A Life*, is keen to stress that the BBC is not simply throwing dirt. "It's a rather moving episode about Churchill enjoying the company of a woman he described as 'young, beautiful and kind'. Is that salacious?"



Politicians are used to being doordropped by journalists, but the roles were reversed yesterday. As journalists emerged from the department of health in Whitehall after hearing William Waldegrave wax lyrical about the success of the government's health service reforms, there was Robin Cook on the pavement, button-holing anyone who would listen with instant reaction.

PC WPC

THE hard-pressed home secretary, Kenneth Baker, could do without any further discomfort at the moment, but he may live to regret agreeing to address the European conference of policewomen, at Bramshill in March. No doubt the female guardians of law and order will listen politely to what Baker has to say. But Euro-policewomen will be far more interested in the woman who has become the Home Office's biggest embarrassment: Alison Halford, the assistant chief constable of Merseyside, now suspended for a second time and who is alleging sex discrimination in being overlooked for promotion.

Halford has become the cause célèbre of the European Network of Policewomen, which is organising the conference at the police staff college. Two workshops en-

titled "Going to Law" have been arranged to advise other delegates how to sue their bosses in similar discrimination cases. With many of those bosses present, including the home secretary and an army of British chief constables, Halford herself is also expected to make an appearance, and is guaranteed a heroine's welcome.

British enigma

ALMOST universally accused of hypocrisy for presenting Labour's "Buy British" party political broadcast last week, David Puttnam can at least claim that he practises what he preaches. He has teamed up with Bill Forsyth to rescue an ambitious British film project. His intervention is timely. After failing for two years to find



the finance for *Being Human*, his first film script since 1984, Forsyth, creator of *Gregory's Girl* and *Local Hero*, was on the verge of abandoning the project. Puttnam's company, Enigma Films, has now put up the money, and Puttnam himself will produce. It is, not, however, taking his "Buy British" message too far. American actor Robin Williams has been signed for the leading part.

Dennis Skinner will be absent from next week's "Desert Island Discs" 50th birthday party. Everyone still living who has ever appeared on the programme was invited, but Skinner has declined, declaring: "I don't believe in organised happiness." Nevertheless he has happy memories of his appearance. One of the eight discs Skinner requested was a record made in honour of Arthur Sangaill, the first line of which ran: "It was in 1984 when the **** hit the fan". Strangely the usually comprehensive BBC record library claimed not to have the recording. Undeterred Skinner arrived in the studio bearing his own copy.

Menu of reforms

DUNCAN NICHOL, chief executive of the NHS, recently returned to his old stomping ground in Bradford, as the guest of honour at an old boys' dinner. But any illusions Nichol may have had about how his old school wished to honour one of its more famous sons were swiftly dispelled when he picked up the menu. There on the back, to his astonishment, was printed a five-verse poem written by Ken Harwood, head of English at Bradford Grammar, satirising the government's NHS reforms, which Nichol has spearheaded.

The last verse gives the flavour: Meanwhile the NHS lies sick, Victim of party politics. Let's operate before it's dead: Let William Waldegrave survive. Upon a nurse's pay, and give His chief executive the wealth To find for every case a bed And bring the patient back to health. The poet has no second thoughts. "I don't know what the fuss is about. This was just a satire. My verse complimented Mr Nichol. Spare us the schoolmaster's scorn when he is being critical."



BUSH'S DOMESTIC TROUBLE

George Bush is still well-placed to be re-elected American president in November, but it is no longer a certainty. Not before time, he starts campaigning today in New Hampshire, the site of the first primary in five weeks' time. For the past few months he has been mired in a political swamp, sucked down by mishap at every step.

His visit to Japan, designed to create "jobs, jobs, jobs" for Americans, was a public relations disaster. It was not just the personal humiliation of his collapse at last Wednesday's official banquet — though, at 67, he cannot afford too many other questions about his health and stamina. He has also faced widespread criticism at home.

Protectionists complain he has failed to win any significant concessions from the Japanese while free-traders accuse him of special pleading on behalf of inefficient American motor companies. Even the anniversary this week of the start of the Gulf war has been less a celebration of military triumph than a reminder of the ambiguous nature of that victory while President Saddam Hussein is still in power.

A new Gallup survey for *USA Today* and CNN shows that Mr Bush's approval rating as president has fallen from a peak of 89 per cent just after the end of the war to 46 per cent. The proportion favouring Mr Bush against an unnamed Democratic challenger has dropped from 53 to 40 per cent last November to just 47 to 45 per cent now.

Mr Bush still receives high ratings for his handling of foreign affairs, but voters are less impressed and less interested. Following the end of the Cold War and the disappearance of the Soviet Union, the American public has begun to turn inward. It is still a gross exaggeration to talk about a revival of isolationism, but the slogan of "America First" — proclaimed both by some conservative Republicans and by liberal Democrats — has a growing appeal with the economy apparently stuck in recession.

Mr Bush has appeared out of touch with these concerns, more than two-thirds of

voters believing he should spend more time on domestic issues. The president needs to present a domestic strategy offering the hope of sustained growth. The Federal Reserve Board has cut interest rates sharply, and Mr Bush's advisers are preparing a package of tax cuts and investment incentives for his State of the Union message on January 28. Further cuts in defence spending are being planned to produce a peace dividend from the end of the Cold War that can be seen to be of benefit to ordinary Americans.

Unlike John Major's tight timetable in Britain, Mr Bush still has plenty of time for recovery to be established. Alan Greenspan, the Fed chairman, talked last Friday of the American economy being stalled rather than in a second leg of recession. So consumer, and voter, confidence could be recovering by the end of the summer.

Nor should Mr Bush's resilience be underrated. As his communications director said this week: "George Bush has been declared dead more times than Elvis Presley." Twice during the 1988 election his campaign appeared to be in serious trouble and twice he recovered strongly. This time Mr Bush is assured of the Republican nomination, even though Pat Buchanan, his challenger from the nationalist right, could do embarrassingly well in the strongly conservative state of New Hampshire. On the Democratic side, Governor Bill Clinton of Arkansas and Senator Tom Harkin of Iowa are ahead of the pack (now down to five) but neither has shown a nationwide appeal.

There is no reason why Mr Bush should not bounce back: Ronald Reagan only had a slightly higher approval rating at this stage of the 1984 campaign. But a good showing by Mr Buchanan next month could produce a shift in Mr Bush's approach towards economic nationalism, to appease the demands for protection coming from both ends of the political spectrum. Mr Bush's current political difficulties may have costs for the rest of the world which last much longer than this year's campaign.

BUTTRESS TO THE LAW

In his *Theory of Moral Sentiments*, Adam Smith said that justice "is the main pillar which holds up the entire edifice". The Adam Smith Institute highlights this quotation in the introduction to its report today in praise of the latest legal vogue, called alternative dispute resolution. But its enthusiasm for "ADR" (as legal jargon has it, rest less upon the Scottish high-mindedness of its mentor than upon ADR's impeccable free-market credentials. Human ingenuity, bred of profit motive out of human need, is spontaneously filling a gap that the state system of justice had neglected. The ghost of Adam Smith can only smile.

Courts are inefficient and costly. The adversarial system amplifies grievances, minimises compromise, and therefore maximises lawyers' bills. Going to law is attractive only to lawyers and those of their clients with bottomless purses, either poor people on unlimited legal aid or rich corporations or individuals to whom money is no object. Even then, the point may well be reached where exasperated principals, feeling more and more like litigants in *Jarndyce v. Jarndyce*, ask their legal advisers: "Surely there must be a better way?"

What fuelled the earliest experiments at ADR in the United States was a growing awareness of "the pathology of litigation", as American lawyers termed a propensity for which their race is world famous. When they went to trial, legal actions often ignored the underlying commercial realities, mainly the fact that the parties had to go on living and doing business with each other whatever the outcome. The legal system seemed designed to emphasise confrontation, with a winner and a loser and consequent bad feeling. What was lacking was an alternative to the adversarial system that would emphasise solution-finding by informal negotiation and conciliation.

Since its American origin ADR has struck a chord in Britain, where there was already a tradition of quasi-judicial arbitration. The most recent grafts onto that tree are the industrial tribunals, meant to be acces-

sible to lay people without professional assistance. But lawyers have a way of taking over anything designed to be quick, informal and "lay", and milking it for their own purposes. Today few would dare go before an industrial tribunal without benefit of a lawyer. Lawyers, naturally, volunteer their services as third parties in ADR systems too; but there is nothing intrinsic to ADR that gives them a monopoly. Where the dispute is financial, an accountant can help, where it concerns property, a surveyor.

The Adam Smith Institute's endorsement of ADR as economically correct will help the system's acceptability in free-market boardrooms, as the Bar Council's endorsement has already done in barristers' chambers. But some of the most important blots on British justice are those which deprive ordinary people of their legal rights by delays and prohibitive costs. Most conspicuous are those areas of law not covered by legal aid, where rights remain the prerogative only of the rich who can afford to claim them.

Libel is one notorious area outside legal aid. Lord Justice Neill's report on defamation last year praised the proposal, put to his enquiry on behalf of *The Times*, for the ADR settlement of suitable libel cases where both parties choose it. This would extend the search for a solution to readers' grievances beyond the scope of the internal "ombudsman" system most newspapers already operate. A scheme is now being discussed by national newspaper legal advisers. ADR is ideal for such conflicts. It would close the gap between the few who may win large damages because they can afford to fight a legal action and the many who have no prospect of any recompense because they cannot.

Technically, ADR is closer to mediation than arbitration, for the purpose of the intervening neutral third party is not to impose a settlement but to suggest one. The search is not for a "right" answer in accordance with abstract legal principles, but for a compromise both sides can live with. ADR may not quite be a pillar of the system, but it makes a useful flying buttress.

LATE SNAG AHEAD

Passengers who arrived in Exeter fuming when their London train pulled in more than two hours late on January 2 will have been heartened yesterday to hear they had won a free travel voucher to cover the cost of their ticket and a refund for their taxi fares. Other commuters eagerly await similar action as a result of the citizen's charter, under which such compensation will be compulsory. But before they cheer, they should reflect. Is this payment really in their interests?

The new compensation scheme could apparently cost British Rail £270 million a year. Will the money come from government? Not a chance. The cash will have to be found either from existing investment, or directly from the passenger through higher ticket prices. Either way, the passengers will bear the cost, in lower safety standards, shabbier trains, a poorer service or more expensive tickets.

The last is the most likely. Fares will rise by more than they would otherwise have done, to cover the compensation costs. That means each passenger on each train journey will in effect be paying an insurance premium to BR. If the train arrives on time, that premium will be lost, just as a travel insurance premium vanishes when a holiday is uneventful. If the worst happens, and the train is badly delayed, the passenger will be able to make a claim.

But if BR is to charge the passengers extra for this, as logically it should, how is its scheme any different from the insurance that

people often take out when they go on holiday? It differs only in that air travel insurance is voluntary. If an aeroplane arrives seriously late, people who are insured can claim compensation from insurance companies; those who are not, cannot. But the latter have at least chosen not to spend money to protect against that risk. On BR, even those passengers to whom an hour's delay is neither here nor there will still be charged.

Passengers have different interests. Those who are pottering up to London to spend a day shopping care less about punctuality than commuters. They will resent paying a compulsory premium on top of their normal ticket. Choice could, surely, be introduced. Customers could decide at the ticket office whether they want to pay the premium, rather than punters placing bets can choose to pay betting tax in advance.

If British Rail became more punctual in order to reduce the amount of compensation it had to pay out, those passengers not covered would become what economists call free riders: gaining the benefit of greater punctuality without paying the cost. But there is some danger that the opposite might happen. BR may calculate that it would be cheaper to let trains run late routinely, and pay out moderate compensation, than to spend the extra needed to improve punctuality. Those for whom delays do not matter much would be delighted to win the refunds. Commuters, though, would be even worse off than they already are.

Labour's plans for tax, employment and insurance

From Mr Peter V. Facey

Sir, The Labour party assures us that "no one earning less than £20,000 will pay more income tax". But the careful use of the word "earning" conceals the fact that Labour plans to introduce a 9 per cent surcharge on investment income. I am under pensionable age and live on dividend income of £18,000, which comes from savings I made when I was younger and paying top rates of income tax. Under Labour my income-tax bill will increase by 29 per cent.

Labour justifies this impost on the grounds of fairness: since employees have to pay a 9 per cent National Insurance contribution (NIC), investors should pay a similar amount. But the employee gets specific benefits in return for NIC payments, including unemployment, sickness and invalidity benefits, maternity pay, and retirement pension. None of these is available to investors. How can it be fair to pay equal contributions for unequal benefits?

When I recently put this point in a letter to John Smith, the shadow Chancellor, he replied that he was unable to add to the above justification. He could have said that investors get certain tax breaks that are not available to employees (such as personal equity plans, business expansion schemes and the capital gains tax exemption); this would have been a good argument if it were not for the fact that Labour intends to slash them.

For a party which plans to resurrect British industry by getting more and better investment, cutting the return to savers is indeed a master stroke.

Yours faithfully,
P. V. FACEY,
134 Sandyhurst Lane,
Ashford, Kent.
January 8.

From Mr Geoffrey Brown

Sir, John Smith says he does not understand why National Insurance contributions should stop at just above the £20,000 mark. He has obviously not been let into the secret that these contributions are not supposed to be a tax, often levied on the basis of ability to pay, as opposed to an insurance premium, charged at a rate reflecting the risk and the benefit to be received.

Is it not time to stop this silly pretence and amalgamate the tax and National Insurance contributions? The administrative savings would be considerable, the electorate would be able to understand the implications of changes in the fiscal system more readily and comparisons with our trading partners would be easier.

Mr Lamont might like to consider

abolishing National Insurance contributions, reducing the single personal allowance to £3,000 and raising the basic rate of income tax to 33 per cent. This gives a bonus of up to £179 on incomes up to £20,300 and will claw back at the rate of 8 per cent on the next income band up to £27,000 — i.e. a maximum £357, taking into account the earlier savings.

We would thus be left with two tax rates: 33 per cent and 40 per cent levied from £3,000 and £27,000 respectively. The current employers' National Insurance contributions would be collected by the Inland Revenue as the more properly named "payroll tax".

Of course, some of the major beneficiaries of this scheme will be charities in receipt of covenant income. The present illusion of a 25 per cent basic rate denies them their proper reward.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY BROWN,
98 Pond Road, SE3.
January 13.

From the Chairman of the National Family Trust

Sir, Your leader, "Basic tax principles" (January 11), has point, but fails to acknowledge that a simple increase in adult tax allowances beyond the rate of inflation, albeit better than reducing the standard rate of tax, would do little or nothing for families. Children, the incapacitated and those who care for them would remain grossly disenfranchised.

Radical and creative reforms have become necessary, involving merging the tax and benefits systems. That process aims to make net family income reflect the responsibility which householders carry for their dependants, and it should include new community work and training schemes in exchange for enhanced benefits. That could reduce unemployment, eliminate the poverty trap and allow social spending to enhance self-esteem and family cohesion.

Social commitments supported by financial incentives is the principle which you should encourage the political parties to debate at this time, not minor adjustments which do nothing for children and families.

Yours sincerely,

RICHARD WHITFIELD,
Chairman,
National Family Trust,
101 Queen Victoria Street, EC4.
January 13.

From Mr Russell Hunt

Sir, Throughout the recent debate on Labour's proposed removal of the upper limit for employees' National Insurance contributions no one poli-

cian, so far as I am aware, has referred to the crippling impact of this tax on small business.

Many owner-managed businesses are trading as limited companies for commercial reasons. Under revenue rules, the owner is an employee, and is liable for income tax and both employer's and employee's contributions. On an annual salary of £20,000 this results in an effective tax rate today of 43.45 per cent. On a salary of £30,000 the effective rate is 45.50 per cent, rising to 48.41 per cent under Labour's proposals. Where is the incentive for risk-taking, initiative, and enterprise?

My vote will go to the Chancellor with the courage to abolish employers' NICs for companies employing fewer than, say, five or ten staff.

Grand, politically inspired, training schemes and enterprise initiatives will never "kick start" the economy; reduced NICs might.

Yours faithfully,
RUSSELL HUNT,
35 Lea Wood Road,
Fleet, Hampshire.
January 13.

From Mr John E. Strafford

Sir, The former Labour Chancellor of the Exchequer, Denis Healey, in his autobiography *The Time of my Life*, published in 1989, wrote about taxation as follows:

... any substantial attempt to improve the lot of the poorest section of the population must now be at the expense of the average man and woman, since the very rich do not collectively earn enough to make such difference, and the average man does not nowadays want to punish those who earn little more than he, since he hopes ultimately to join them.

Perhaps we should remember this whenever a political party advocates redistributing taxation.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN E. STRAFFORD,
Perama, Fulmer Road,
Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire.
January 13.

From Mr N. V. Rees

Sir, Part of the recession over which Mr Lamont does have control is employers' NI payments, which effectively tax employers with an additional salary for every ten paid.

What better route to unemployment could have been devised than to punish firms for employing people? How better to suppress the quality of British goods and services than to insist that the higher the skill and thus pay of the employee, the greater the punishment?

Yours faithfully,
N. V. REES,
12 Cahon Road,
New Barnet, Hertfordshire.
January 14.

Business letters, page 25

Annigoni portrait

From Lady Egerton

Sir, Your Diary reports (January 9, 11) on the Fishmongers' Company's reluctance to lend their Annigoni portrait of the Queen to the forthcoming exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum marking the 40th anniversary of her accession to the throne.

Their refusal has meant that we were asked and have agreed to lend our copy (by Guardian) which hangs in the entrance hall of our residence.

The Fishmongers cite the possibility of damage as one of the reasons for not lending the picture. If damage is a risk from the Fishmongers' Hall to the V&A, what about the risks in transit from and back to Rome?

Yours faithfully,
CAROLINE EGERTON,
British Embassy, Rome.
January 13.

Splinter groups

From Major Oliver Crocombe

Sir, Could we perhaps mark the 150th anniversary on March 13 this year of the death of that inventive and, needless to say, ill-rewarded officer, Lieutenant-General Henry Shrapnel (1761-1842), by persuading media men and women not to refer to every metal splinter by his name?

The habit is almost as irritating as the inevitable reference to every naval, military or air force barracks, station, camp, depot, headquarters, college, school, office or whatever as a "base".

Yours faithfully,
OLIVER CROCOMBE,
Castle House,
Enmore,
Bridgwater, Somerset.
January 11.

'Weaving the Web'

From Mr K. P. Platt

Sir, I fear that Bishop David Konstant's letter (January 8) will do little to allay the concern felt by Catholic parents, parish priests, and not a few bishops, regarding the use of *Weaving the Web* as resource books for religious education in Catholic schools. He both misunderstands the criticisms of the books and greatly exaggerates the support that the Vatican Congregation of the Clergy gives to his views.

Their letter, dated November 19 of last year, was, in fact, addressed to myself and not, as readers might assume, to the education department of the Congregation of Bishops. In no way does it approve of *Weaving the Web*, but merely allows that it may be

BA and Virgin

From the Chairman of Virgin Atlantic Airways

Sir, Sir Colin Marshall of British Airways writes (letter, January 14) that "Mr Branson's allegations" of a dirty tricks campaign "are totally without foundation".

Much of the information about a dirty tricks campaign against Virgin came to us through the investigative journalism of *The Times* and other newspapers.

British Airways has refused to comment on any of the specific allegations against it by any newspaper over the last three months. If the allegations are "totally without foundation", I challenge Sir Colin Marshall to answer point-by-point the allegations raised against BA by *The Times* and other newspapers and clear the air by holding an internal enquiry, which he has so far refused to do.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD BRANSON, Chairman,
Virgin Atlantic Airways,
Virgin Holdings Ltd.,
120 Campden Hill Road, W8.

Honours uneven

From Mr J. Prakash

Sir, While the former hostages and other national heroes are being endowed with the Queen's honours, perhaps it is opportune to consider what to do about those recipients who have brought disrepute to such titles through dishonourable acts.

A glaring example is evident in the former Crown colony of Fiji, where Major-General Sitiveni Rabuka, who should face treason charges for helping to overthrow our Queen's democratically elected government in May 1987, still uses his OBE title. The former governor-general, Ratu Sir Penia Ganilau, who to all intents and purposes betrayed the Queen's trust by becoming the

Form and function

From Mr Stephen Gardiner

Sir, Interesting as Mr Will Alsop's observations may be ("Colour him a non-specialist", *Arts*, January 6), the dictum that "form follows function" was not Le Corbusier's. My understanding is that the attribution arose from a widely read tract by Louis Sullivan, *The Tall Office Building Artistically Considered*, published in 1896.

Le Corbusier in fact found the inference conveyed by the use of the word "function" thoroughly distasteful, and said as much:

This frightful word was born under other skies than those I have loved — those where the sun shines supreme.

It is important to correct this misleading misconception. Sullivan's assertion, taken out of context, was probably misunderstood and may in any case have been derived from other sources.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN GARDINER,
Stephen Gardiner Architects,
203 King's Road, SW3.
January 7.

military-appointed president, still keeps his knighthood. Furthermore, a media battle now emerging in Fiji between Rabuka and the military-reinstated prime minister, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, is revealing definite evidence of Mara involvement in planning this treasonous coup.

If the Queen's honorary titles can be revoked, as in the case of Sir Arthur Henry, former premier of the Cook Islands, then why has the government been so inconsistent in allowing this affront to continue for so long?

Yours faithfully,
J. PRAKASH,
International Fiji Movement,
77 Strathmore Avenue, Leicester.
January 11.

Catholic teachings as original sin, the divinity of Christ, the real presence in the Eucharist, the Sunday Mass obligation, the virtue of chastity, the issue of abortion, etc., are not so much as mentioned in it.

Critics fear that this is because authors and supporters of the resource do not consider these things to be of importance to the faith which we send our children to Catholic schools to learn, particularly since we have been given no assurance that teaching on these matters will be included in the undisclosed complementary "parts" of the religious education programme.

Yours sincerely,
KENNETH PLATT,
47 Henthurst Road,
Sanderstead, Surrey.
January 8.

UK's own form of 'granny dumping'

From Mr Geoffrey C. Atkinson

Sir, "Granny dumping" (report, January 10) is already a common phenomenon in the UK, only we call it "community care".

Unlike the Americans, we do not drive our old people to hospitals and leave them with noses round their necks. We leave them at home, throw in meals-on-wheels a few days a week, arrange visits from over-stretched community nurses and home helps, and expect charities and non-existent families to do the rest.

We provide inadequate social security to allow old people to choose good-quality residential or nursing care, and as from April next year, central government is throwing the whole hot potato back almost certainly with inadequate funds, to local authorities.

As a coup de grace the Audit Commission has now recommended that old people should not block long-term hospital beds since "community care is cheaper". Of course it is in its present form, but to the frail, confused, elderly person it is a form of squalid solitary confinement that is a shame and a threat to all of us as the population ages.

Is there any chance, I wonder, that one of the political parties will have the courage to put the care of our ageing population high on the agenda for the forthcoming election?

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY C. ATKINSON
(Director),
Motor and Allied Trades
Benevolent Fund,
Lynwood, Sunninghill,
Ascot, Berkshire.
January 10.

From the Director of Carers National Association

Sir, I was pleased to see that Sarah Harper's address to the Institute of British Geographers pointed out the unacceptable burdens which are placed on family carers. We should not overstate the danger of "granny dumping", since most families continue to take on the care of elderly relatives either for reasons of love or duty.

It is undoubtedly true, though, that burdens on family carers are increasing while the resources available to support them are decreasing. We simply cannot continue to exploit carers in this way — if we do, "granny dumping" may well develop into an epidemic.

If you have cared for an elderly person for ten or even 20 years, it is not unreasonable that there comes a point where you feel you simply cannot go on. When carers reach this point, many find that no help at all is available to them. It is hardly surprising that a few feel like "dumping".

Yours faithfully,
JILL PITKEATHLEY,
Director,
Carers National Association,
29 Chisworth Mews, W2,
January 10.

Smoking and health

From the Reverend D. Howell-Jones

Sir, Mr Richard M. Hughes (letter, January 4) misses the point. He may not wish to smoke Turkish cigarettes — nor do I, and we are not obliged to — but if we are unwilling to defend the freedoms of others (in which, perhaps, we see little merit) who will defend our freedoms when they are threatened?

Yours faithfully,
D. HOWELL-JONES,
71 Christchurch Road,
Norwich, Norfolk.
January 4.

Musical tradition

From Mr Bryan G. Lowe

Sir, I totally agree with your correspondence. Mr Wilson (January 10), that the custom of standing for the Hallelujah Chorus is indeed foolish; but how are we, who prefer to enjoy it from a sitting position, to convince the standing majority? Each time I decline to rise I am threatened with abuse by my companions.

Yours faithfully,
BRYAN G. LOWE,
31 Birchwood Drive,
Lightwater, Surrey.
January 10.

From Mr B. S. Adams

Sir, As George II was a king among philistines, having, by his own admission, "boozed and bawled", it seems not unlikely that his lack of enthusiasm extended to music also. I was brought up to believe that he stood at the opening of the Hallelujah Chorus not out of admiration for Handel, but because he thought it was the national anthem. I can well imagine that by that stage of the performance he was hoping to go home.

Yours faithfully,
B. S. ADAMS,
3 The Street, Brecon, Powys.
January 10.

From Mr John Silverlight

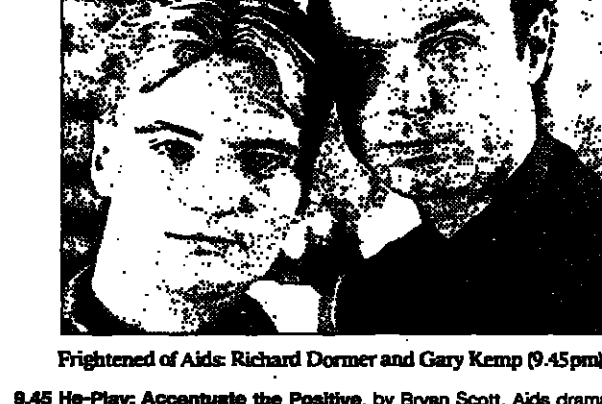
Sir, "Haydn, hearing the Hallelujah Chorus in Westminster Abbey, rose to his feet with the crowd, wept, and exclaimed, 'He is the master of us all.'" (*The Oxford Companion to Music*, 1942 edition).

Yours faithfully,
JOHN SILVERLIGHT,
43 Suffolk Road, Barnes, SW13.

Handwritten note: 15/1/92

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 **The Channel 4 Daily** (86533650)
- 9.25 **Schools** (57750846)
- 12.00 **The Parliament Programme** presented by Nicholas Owen (14859)
- 12.30 **Business Daily**. The latest news from the world's money markets (40776)
- 1.00 **Seance Street**. Early learning series (38931)
- 2.00 **Film: Major Barbara** (1941, b/w) starring Wendy Hiller, Herbert Marshall and Robert Morley. Slaggy, strangely-acted version of George Bernard Shaw's social comedy about the head of a mission for an oppressed millionaires who joins the Salvation Army only to resign after they accept a donation from her father. Directed by Gabriel Pascal and, uncredited, Harold French and David Lean (887080)
- 4.30 **Countdown**. Another round of the words and numbers game presented by Richard Whitley (486)
- 5.00 **The Oprah Winfrey Show**. Roseanne Barr reveals why she never wants to use her family name (11086554)
- 5.55 **Lezard and Hardy**. Cartoon version (385080)
- 6.00 **Kate and Allie**. American comedy series starring Susan Sarandon, James and Jane Curtin as divorcees sharing single parenthood and a Greenwich Village home (979)
- 6.30 **Tonight with Jonathan Ross**. The guests include the Joshua Tree and John Hesi, a former vagrant, now an author and the subject of BBC 2's opening Screen Two film, *The Grass Arena*, to be shown on Sunday (5) (831)
- 7.00 **Channel 4 News** with Jon Snow and Zeinab Badawi. (Teletext) (453698)
- 7.50 **Comment** (672979)
- 8.00 **Brookside**. Soap set in a Merseyside close. (Teletext) (5) (8844)
- 8.30 **Traveling**. Actor/writer Patrick Barlow and his teenage son travel to Valencia to see what the area offers for a family holiday (5) (7976)
- 9.00 **Dispatches**. A report on how artificially created animals and plants are becoming the property of the companies that develop them — with hardly any public notice or scrutiny (885221)



about two men, neither of whom is suffering from the disease, who allow the fear of it to damage and then destroy their relationship.

Starring **Gary Kemp** and **Richard Dornard** (551824)

10.00 The Golden Girls. Cracking comedy series about four Miami matrons looking for excitement in their lives. (Teletext) (3) (15592)

10.30 The Bill. A police procedural series featuring a mixture of mystery and illusion presented by Simon Drake. Tonight's guests include Ricky Jay, David Berglas, Max Maven and Enrica (911912)

11.00 Drop the Dead Donkey. A repeat of the topical television newsroom comedy series (3) (7530)

11.30 The 28th Club. Showbiz hopefuls face a hostile audience at London's Hackney Empire (58000)

12.30am Tonight with Jonathan Ross (3) (1147968)

1.55 Dick Spanner. Series created by Gerry Anderson of *Thunderbirds* about the exploits of Tony Ross's coolest private detective (3018933). Ends at 1.05

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

The numbers now appearing next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode numbers, which allow you to instantly programme your video recorder with a VideoPlus+ handset. VideoPlus+ can be used with most videos. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you want to record. For more details call VideoPlus+ on 0800 200 200. VideoPlus+ is available on all video channels and is written to VideoPlus+, VTM Ltd., 77 Fulham Palace Road, London W6 8JA. VideoPlus+, (P), PlusCode (P) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Germana Marketing Ltd.

70115 8.55 Ford Escort Sport (F74300)
 70116 5.00 Ford Escort 3.00 FA Cup Football
 70117 1.00 Manchester Utd (F6812) 10.00 NFL
 70118 Conference Championship (A1979) 12.00
 70119 Australian News (F73055)

EUROSPORT
 @ Via the Astra satellite.
 70120 12.00m World Cup Skiing (A348) 10.00 Ski
 70121 12.00m (F7391) 11.00m World Cup Skiing
 70122 (F6407) 12.00m Motorcycling on ice (A2685)
 70123 12.00m Parle-Coup Tour Rally (B2623) 1.30
 70124 12.00m (A3305) (S3776) 2.30m Basketball
 70125 (F6994) 4.00m Siding World Cup (H589) 5.00
 70126 12.00m (A130) 6.00m German Rally (5172)
 70127 3.30m Motorcycling on ice (E7047) 7.30 Road
 70128 To Australia (F7392) 8.00m Parle-Coup Tour
 70129 12.00m (A3305) 12.00m Parle-Coup Tour
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 70132 12.00m Parle-Coup Tour Rally (B2623) 1.30
 70133 12.00m Parle-Coup Tour Rally (B2623) 1.30

SCREENSPORT
 @ Via the Astra satellite.
 70134 12.00m Euros (F7268) 7.30m (F7268)
 70135 12.00m Spanish Football (B2623) 8.30

Go (F3009) 9.30m Eurovision (A1486) 10.00
 70136 African Nations Cup (B0405) 11.00m
 70137 Snooker Classics (A4738) 1.00pm NFL
 Action (A1587) 2.00m Eurovision (F7261) 2.30
 70138 African Nations Cup (B0405) 1.30
 70139 (B5554) 5.00m Harlem Basketball (1991)
 70140 5.00m Salford Home Cup (G5554)
 70141 5.20m African Nations Cup (B0405) 6.10
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Chairman chosen and chief executive sought

Ill health forces Fisons chief to step down

BY MARTIN WATLER

JOHN Kerridge has quit abruptly from the helm of Fisons, the pharmaceuticals and garden products group, blaming ill health.

Mr Kerridge, aged 57, was chairman, chief executive and the main architect of the revival in the company's fortunes during the Eighties.

The company was insisting last night that there was only a tangential link between Mr Kerridge's departure and the company's recent woes, capped last month by news of a £65 million hole in profits this year because of problems with the American regulatory authorities.

Mr Kerridge has had a slight heart problem and had been suffering from high blood pressure. Patrick Egan, the non-executive director who is taking over as executive chairman, said: "This obviously got progressively worse over the course of the last months. I'm not a medical man, but I would have thought it was not unaffected by the stress he's had in recent times because of the downturn in profits."

Mr Egan conceded last night that the search for a new chief executive had only just begun and no swift resolution was expected. Both internal and external candidates were being considered.

Mr Egan added that last year, Mr Kerridge had accepted in principle a split in his roles, and the company started the search for a new chief executive before his condition deteriorated further over the Christmas and New Year period.

Medical advice at the start of the year had been that he should leave the company entirely. Mr Kerridge was "incommunicado indefinitely" last night, according to Fisons, and not at the Ipswich headquarters. Compensation terms are being agreed.

The company is denying market rumours that Mr Kerridge had come under pressure to split the roles because of his troubles. Mr Egan said the decision had been made in view of the former chairman's impending retirement in February 1988, to clear up the matter of succession.

The decision to seek a new chief executive had been made by the non-executive directors, including Mr Egan and Sir Philip Harris, the company's chairman.

Mr Egan said: "The board wishes it to be clearly understood that there has been no pressure on Mr Kerridge, either from his fellow board members or from our principal shareholders, to take this course of action. The decision is a medical one and entirely his own."

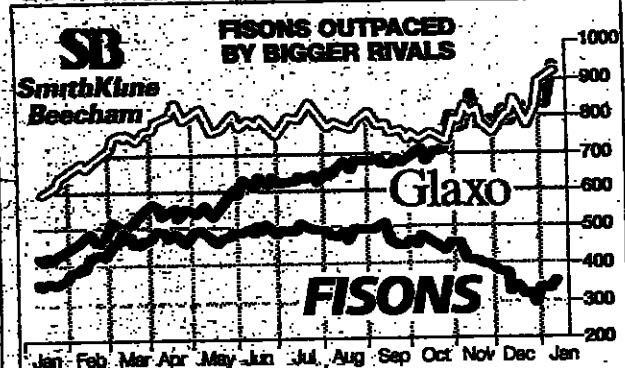
Market-watchers, however, believe there had been some behind-the-scenes lobbying for a split in the roles, given the difficulties the company has faced. The share price had fallen from above £5 in July to a 293p low on December 27. Yesterday, they continued to rally, up 11p to 365p, 18p ahead since Monday morning.

Mr Kerridge engineered the transformation of Fisons into a higher margin pharmaceutical business from one best known for its horticultural and gardening products. An attempt to find a chief executive four years ago came to nothing, and the candidates were not even presented to the non-executive directors.

Mr Kerridge did not always enjoy a good relationship with the City, and the company's fading fortunes were not helped by apparently contradictory statements to institutions on the problems caused by the American regulatory authorities.

Problems came to a head on December 11 with news of a ban on two drugs, Opticrom, a hay fever medicine, and Imferon, a blood product, that would hit this year's profits. The company denied allegations that Imferon had been stored in beer kegs.

Comment, page 25



Threat of strike drives down mark

BY ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE mark fell sharply against the dollar, as well as the pound and other ERM currencies, after IG Metall, the German metalworkers' union, announced a formal strike ballot in support of its 10.5 per cent pay demand.

Although IG Metall's announcement was widely expected, it hit the German currency hard in a day of hectic trading, driven by many confusing factors, including a small rise in Spanish interest rates, and slightly weaker than expected economic statistics published in America and Britain.

By the end of trading in London, the pound had risen to almost DM2.85 from its Monday close of DM2.8380, while the dollar stood at DM1.5970, up more than 1 per cent on the day.

In Britain, the Central Statistical Office announced that output prices for manufacturing goods rose in December by 0.1 per cent, giving a year-on-year increase of 5.0 per cent, down from 5.1 per

cent in November. Excluding food, drink and tobacco, the so-called "underlying" rate of producer inflation fell to 3.8 per cent from 4.0 per cent.

In America, the commerce department announced that retail sales fell by 0.4 per cent in December, compared with expectations of a 0.3 per cent decline. However, financial markets showed no reaction to these figures, responding instead to rumours that the private University of Michigan survey, due out this week, will show a surge in American consumer confidence.

The mark was also weakened by an unexpected decision by the Bank of Spain to lift its key repo rate to 12.65 per cent from 12.5 per cent. Dealers said the move supported the peseta by making it clear that the Spanish authorities were determined to keep their currency strong.

German deadline, page 23
Comment, page 25

Stakis unveils £47m loss

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH

ANDROS Stakis, deposed chief executive of the Stakis leisure group built up by his father, is to share a £700,000 compensation payment for lack of office with two other former directors of the company.

The payment will be detailed in the group's accounts, which are due out within weeks.

Sir Lewis Robertson, the company doctor brought in as chairman of the group in March, unveiled a pre-tax loss of £47.4 million for the year to end-September, and warned shareholders that they were unlikely to see the group fulfil its full potential in the current year.

Sir Lewis said he had taken strong corrective action and implemented a recovery strategy. This aims to concentrate on hotels and healthcare as the core businesses, divest some leisure activities and withdraw from commercial property.

In December, the management team was boosted by the appointment of David Michels, previously with Hilton

International, as chief executive of the company.

The pre-tax loss included £43.7 million of exceptional costs and provisions. Pre-tax profits last time were £30.6 million. Sir Lewis said the comparisons were distorted by the inclusion of £18 million of disposal profits in the previous year's results.

He said: "These distorting factors aside, it is the case, in common with most of the leisure industry, that Stakis experienced a marked downturn in trading almost throughout the year, especially in hotels and property."

Turnover rose from £150 million to £171 million, and the loss per share was 16.74p, against earnings of 12.1p. A final dividend of 0.45p will be paid, making 0.9p for the year, down from 2.7p.

Sir Lewis said the dividend reflected the directors' confidence in the underlying strength of the group and its potential for future development, while having due regard for the need to conserve cash resources.

The group has withdrawn its casinos from sale after it

proved impossible to sell them at an acceptable price. They will be retained for their strong cash flow. The sale of the Scottish public houses, restaurants and pizza houses, and the disposal of the chain of English Firkin public houses, raised £30 million, which has been used to reduce debt.

Sir Lewis said the group's main bankers had given assurances of appropriate support and a standstill agreement to end in March 1992 had been accepted by all Stakis' bankers.

The hotel division made profits of £7.2 million, against £27.6 million of disposals. Healthcare improved its profits from £1.53 million to £1.97 million, and the leisure division profits grew from £8.75 million to £9.64 million. Property made a loss of £1.11 million, compared with profits of £2.94 million. The sale of the division has been put in the hands of Co-ordinated Land & Estates, an outside specialist.

Tempus, page 24

TODAY'S BUSINESS

SURVIVAL SENSE



David Coleridge, chairman of Lloyd's, has promised no sacred cows of the insurance market. Today sees the fourth attempt at reform, if not survival. Page 25

RATNERS TALKS

Ratners directors were in talks last night over whether to continue paying a dividend on the US preference shares. Page 23

OIL SLIPPING



Oil production in the former Soviet Union will fall again this year but pressure is still on Opec's Jibril Amman to cut output. Page 22

REVITALISED

Howden Group, the engineer, is back from the dead with interim profits of £5.81 million (£214,000). Tempus, page 24

HANDSHAKE



Derek Lewis, received a £579,550 payoff from Granada. Institutional shareholders have expressed concern. Page 23

Heaton takes over at panel

BY GRAHAM SEARJEANT
FINANCIAL EDITOR

FRANCES Heaton, a former Treasury official who has spent the past ten years in the corporate finance department of Lazard Brothers, is to be the next director general of the City's takeover panel. She will take over from Geoffrey Barnett, who returns to Barclays on March 11, on the usual two-year secondment.

Mrs Heaton said that regulating the conduct of takeovers, which requires quick decision making, was halfway between a public and private sector job and would allow her to deploy her experience in both camps. She defended takeovers as an important instrument for effecting management change but predicted the next phase would be more industrially and commercially oriented.

She said: "Takeovers got a bad name because of the wave of financially oriented bids."

Mrs Heaton was appointed by and will report to Sir David Calcutt, the panel chairman.

Diary, page 25



Predicting change: Frances Heaton, director general

Court puts BCCI into liquidation

BY NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE Bank of Credit and Commerce International was formally put into liquidation at the High Court in London yesterday, as talks continue with Abu Dhabi on a compensation package.

The Bank of England applied for the winding-up order and was unopposed. Sir Donald Nicholls, the Vice-Chancellor, said the bank was "plainly and hopelessly insolvent". Touche Ross, the liquidator, said later it hoped the compensation plan would be announced soon. This will involve a \$3 billion injection by Abu Dhabi and should refund depositors up to 40 per cent of their losses.

The winding-up also triggers the Bank of England deposit protection scheme to compensate the 38,000 British depositors, with a maximum payout of £15,000 each.

BCCI tragedy, page 25

Botnar runs down Nissan UK

BY KEVIN EASON
MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

OCTAV Botnar is dismantling the remains of his Nissan UK company as the Japanese motor manufacturer yesterday ordered him to remove its logos from his 150 dealerships.

Nissan Motor (GB), the company set up by the Japanese manufacturer to take over distribution of Nissan cars from Nissan UK, has told Mr Botnar that his garages cannot now use the Nissan title or badges.

Nissan UK was Europe's most successful independent dealership chain until the Japanese severed a 21-year-old distribution agreement with Mr Botnar last year. Mr Botnar fought the decision through the courts.

However, the German multi-millionaire was yesterday winding down the business while strengthening other ac-

tivities to keep his 4,000 staff employed and his headquarters at Worthing, East Sussex, operational.

Although Nissan UK was the core business, employing about 350 people, Mr Botnar's operation includes AFG, the dealer chain, AFS, a finance company, a fleet leasing business and industrial machine supply arm.

AFS, the £400 million finance company, has 300,000 customers and has just negotiated security worth £250 million to assure its future, until at least 1996. AFG is the most troublesome, business, with only 20,000 new Nissan cars carried over from last year still to sell. When they have gone, many AFG garages will be left with only used cars unless they can find another franchise. Peugeot and Rover have taken over a number of AFG dealerships and a mix of closures, restructuring and new franchises will account for the rest in the

next few months. Mr Botnar is confident that Nissan UK staff will be absorbed by his other businesses.

Mr Botnar built his empire by importing Japanese cars in the Sixties, when they were regarded as little more than a joke. Within 20 years, he was selling 100,000 Nissan cars and vans a year in Britain, making it the biggest European market for the Japanese manufacturer.

A series of rows over pricing led to the Japanese starting its own distribution company, using 150 new dealers. Nissan Motor (GB) is anxious to promote its new network, leading to the decision to prevent Mr Botnar from advertising any links with Nissan.

Akio Sumitomo, Nissan Motor's managing director, said: "We regret the necessity to take this firm action but our new dealers and customers will see it as a responsible move to protect Nissan's name and reputation."

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THE POUND

US dollar
1.8070 (+0.0090)
German mark
2.8419 (+0.0068)
Exchange index
90.4 (+0.2)
Bank of England official
cash (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
1010.4 (+15.6)
FT-SE 100
2516.3 (+26.2)
New York Dow Jones
3205.72 (+20.12)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave
21775.13 (+78.27)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 10 1/2%
3-month interbank 10 1/2-10 3/4%
3-month eligible bills 10 1/2-10 3/4%
US: Prime Rate 9 1/2%
Federal Funds 3 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 3.82-3.81%
30-year bonds 10 1/2-10 3/4%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£: \$1.7945
£: DM2.9434
£: Sfr1.2528
£: FF9.7038
£: Yen227.18
£: Index 90.4
ECU 1.017578
£: ECU1.397100
London foreign market close

GOLD

London: Gold
AU \$333.40 p.m. \$333.60
close \$333.75-354.25 (1996.60
197.10)
New York:
Comex \$354.15-354.65

NORTH SEA OIL

Brant (Feb) \$17.90 bbl (\$17.95)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 135.6 November (1987=100)
* Denotes midday trading price

IEA predicts oil output fall in former Soviet states

By MARTIN BARROW

OIL production in the former Soviet Union fell to 10.4 million barrels per day last year, down 9.5 per cent from 1990 and down 17.7 per cent from the 1988 peak, according to the International Energy Agency.

The IEA also forecast that output from the new Commonwealth of Independent States would average 9.5 million bpd this year. November output was 10 million bpd and December production was expected to be about 100,000 bpd below that.

The agency said it could not forecast the amount of oil available for export this year because of political changes and uncertainties over the economy and domestic demand for fuel.

The IEA's latest monthly oil market report estimates that world demand for oil will grow 0.75 per cent in 1992. Global demand is expected to average 66.8 million bpd this year, compared with 66.3 million

bpd last year. The agency expects demand to drop 2.6 million bpd between the first and second quarters of the year, which will put a burden on Jibril Aminu, president of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, to fall output and stop oil prices falling further, after hitting 11-month lows in the past week.

Opec meets in Geneva on February 12 to decide second-quarter output levels.

The IEA said Opec production averaged 24.2 million bpd in December. The agency expects a third quarter cut of 23.3 million bpd and 25.6 million in the fourth quarter.

Oil prices slipped back yesterday with February Brent trading 8 cents lower at \$17.87 a barrel, partly offsetting Monday's gains. Traders remain concerned about overproduction by Opec and the threat of a resumption of oil exports by Iraq.

Weak demand, page 10



Under pressure: Jibril Aminu, Opec president

British Gas nears MMC enquiry deadline

By MARTIN WALLER

BRITISH Gas was last night continuing a game of brinkmanship with the Office of Fair Trading over the looming threat of an investigation into the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The OFT has indicated it expects agreement by today

with the company over attempts to inject more competition into the industry, where British Gas has a virtual monopoly, or the matter will go to the MMC.

British Gas has already agreed to reduce its share of the profitable industrial market from 90 to 40 per cent and to separate out its distribution network into an independent trading subsidiary.

The board, however, is insisting on a change to the regulatory regime governing the domestic market, which the OFT believes it is powerless to grant, before the company will sign the agreement.

British Gas has asked for a relaxation of the stiff new

price regime governing the domestic market, expected to come into effect on April 1.

Ogas, the regulator, has refused, taking the view that the company knew of the squeeze on profits from industrial business when it agreed the price framework. British Gas wants to appeal that refusal to the MMC.

Nobo falls to £62,000 at half time

By PHILIP FANGALOS

NOBO Group, the visual aids and office equipment concern, has cut its interim dividend to 1p (2.42p) after first-half profits collapsed in "some of the poorest trading conditions known in the history of the group".

Pre-tax profits slumped to £62,000 (£1.29 million) in the half year to end-October, on turnover down 22.8 per cent to £9.92 million. Earnings plunged to 0.06p (7.93p) per share. Roger Colvin, chief executive, said sales were affected by reduced demand and further destocking.

The decline in profits was exacerbated by a £227,000 exceptional charge, relating to compensation paid to Colvin Smith, a former managing director who left in November. The company said his departure was a result of "the group's policy of consolidating management and containing future costs". Mr Colvin defended the move, saying savings from Mr Smith's departure amount to £170,000 a year. In addition, Reg Barr, executive chairman, will become non-executive chairman and director with immediate effect, resulting in his salary being halved to £50,000.

Mr Colvin is "cautiously optimistic" about prospects, following increased activity from the group's customers. "I think we are over the worst," he added. He said interim sales in October were encouraging, with the trend continuing in November and December. The shares lost 6p to 71p.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Barbour Index bucks the trend with £2.8m

BARBOUR Index, which provides specialist information to the construction and health and safety industries, is raising its interim dividend to 2.4p (2.2p) as it continues to buck the trend, lifting taxable profits to £2.78 million (£2.66 million) in the six months to end-October. Turnover edged to £7.17 million (£5.94 million).

The Barbour Compendium, a leading reference manual to the construction industry, increased its profits despite a "marginal decline" in its renewal rate to about 80 per cent. Market conditions remain difficult and Jack Dunn, the chief executive, said: "It's still tough going, but it's certainly not getting any worse." The company is sitting on cash of £3.7 million. Earnings per share climbed to 11.1p (10.5p). The shares closed 12p higher at 191p.

Bucknall in the red

BUCKNALL Group, the quantity surveyor and project manager, fell into losses at the halfway stage, as forecast by the company in October. Losses before tax for the six months to end-October were £752,000, compared with a profit of £542,000 for the corresponding period in 1990. Turnover fell from £10.4 million to £8.5 million. There is no interim dividend (1.5p), but the directors have pledged to restore payment "as soon as possible". The final dividend will be reviewed after the year-end. Gearing at halfway stage was 68 per cent, compared with a year-end position of 129 per cent.

Estate agent plunges

AN increased emphasis on regional and consultancy work has helped Debenham Tewson & Chinnocks, the commercial estate agent and property adviser, stay in the black in the first half of the year. But the company said that the second half "will not be easy". Profits before tax for the six months to end-October collapsed from £2.05 million to £0.73 million on sharply reduced turnover of £16.5 million. The interim dividend is cut from 2.4p to 1p.

Engineer cuts payout

AEROSPACE Engineering, the specialist engineer that makes aircraft components and equipment for nuclear power stations, has cut its interim dividend to 0.5p (1.56p) after going into the red at the halfway stage. The company suffered a pre-tax loss of £271,000 in the half year to end-October, against a profit of £1.38 million last time. Turnover fell 16.3 per cent to £15.1 million, affected by the recession and destocking. Interest costs rose 21 per cent to £736,000.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Unit	Offer	Price	Yld	Div	Unit	Offer	Price	Yld	Div	Unit	Offer	Price	Yld	Div	Unit	Offer	Price	Yld	Div
ABBOTT UNIT TRUST MANAGERS																			
100 Bedford Row, London EC4A 3DF																			
Abbott Growth	30.30	32.50	+1.00	5.67	Abbott Growth	30.30	32.50	+1.00	5.67	Abbott Growth	30.30	32.50	+1.00	5.67	Abbott Growth	30.30	32.50	+1.00	5.67
Abbott Income	20.10	20.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Income	20.10	20.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Income	20.10	20.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Income	20.10	20.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott Bond	10.10	10.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Bond	10.10	10.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Bond	10.10	10.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Bond	10.10	10.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott Equity	15.10	15.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Equity	15.10	15.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Equity	15.10	15.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Equity	15.10	15.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott Dividend	5.10	5.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Dividend	5.10	5.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Dividend	5.10	5.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Dividend	5.10	5.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott Cash	1.10	1.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Cash	1.10	1.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Cash	1.10	1.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Cash	1.10	1.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott High Yield	11.10	11.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott High Yield	11.10	11.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott High Yield	11.10	11.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott High Yield	11.10	11.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott International	16.10	16.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott International	16.10	16.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott International	16.10	16.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott International	16.10	16.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott Global	21.10	21.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Global	21.10	21.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Global	21.10	21.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Global	21.10	21.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott Real Estate	26.10	26.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Real Estate	26.10	26.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Real Estate	26.10	26.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Real Estate	26.10	26.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott Infrastructure	31.10	31.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Infrastructure	31.10	31.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Infrastructure	31.10	31.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Infrastructure	31.10	31.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott Commodities	36.10	36.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Commodities	36.10	36.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Commodities	36.10	36.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Commodities	36.10	36.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott Hedge	41.10	41.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Hedge	41.10	41.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Hedge	41.10	41.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Hedge	41.10	41.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott Alternative	46.10	46.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Alternative	46.10	46.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Alternative	46.10	46.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Alternative	46.10	46.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott Special	51.10	51.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Special	51.10	51.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Special	51.10	51.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Special	51.10	51.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott Private	56.10	56.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Private	56.10	56.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Private	56.10	56.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Private	56.10	56.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott Venture	61.10	61.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Venture	61.10	61.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Venture	61.10	61.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Venture	61.10	61.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott Growth	66.10	66.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Growth	66.10	66.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Growth	66.10	66.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Growth	66.10	66.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott Income	71.10	71.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Income	71.10	71.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Income	71.10	71.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Income	71.10	71.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott Bond	76.10	76.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Bond	76.10	76.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Bond	76.10	76.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Bond	76.10	76.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott Equity	81.10	81.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Equity	81.10	81.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Equity	81.10	81.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Equity	81.10	81.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott Dividend	86.10	86.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Dividend	86.10	86.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Dividend	86.10	86.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Dividend	86.10	86.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott Cash	91.10	91.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Cash	91.10	91.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Cash	91.10	91.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Cash	91.10	91.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott High Yield	96.10	96.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott High Yield	96.10	96.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott High Yield	96.10	96.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott High Yield	96.10	96.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott International	101.10	101.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott International	101.10	101.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott International	101.10	101.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott International	101.10	101.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott Global	106.10	106.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Global	106.10	106.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Global	106.10	106.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Global	106.10	106.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott Real Estate	111.10	111.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Real Estate	111.10	111.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Real Estate	111.10	111.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Real Estate	111.10	111.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott Infrastructure	116.10	116.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Infrastructure	116.10	116.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Infrastructure	116.10	116.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Infrastructure	116.10	116.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott Commodities	121.10	121.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Commodities	121.10	121.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Commodities	121.10	121.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Commodities	121.10	121.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott Hedge	126.10	126.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Hedge	126.10	126.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Hedge	126.10	126.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Hedge	126.10	126.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott Alternative	131.10	131.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Alternative	131.10	131.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Alternative	131.10	131.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Alternative	131.10	131.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott Special	136.10	136.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Special	136.10	136.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Special	136.10	136.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Special	136.10	136.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott Private	141.10	141.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Private	141.10	141.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Private	141.10	141.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Private	141.10	141.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott Venture	146.10	146.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Venture	146.10	146.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Venture	146.10	146.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Venture	146.10	146.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott Growth	151.10	151.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Growth	151.10	151.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Growth	151.10	151.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Growth	151.10	151.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott Income	156.10	156.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Income	156.10	156.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Income	156.10	156.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Income	156.10	156.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott Bond	161.10	161.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Bond	161.10	161.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Bond	161.10	161.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Bond	161.10	161.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott Equity	166.10	166.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Equity	166.10	166.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Equity	166.10	166.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Equity	166.10	166.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott Dividend	171.10	171.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Dividend	171.10	171.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Dividend	171.10	171.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Dividend	171.10	171.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott Cash	176.10	176.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Cash	176.10	176.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Cash	176.10	176.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Cash	176.10	176.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott High Yield	181.10	181.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott High Yield	181.10	181.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott High Yield	181.10	181.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott High Yield	181.10	181.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott International	186.10	186.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott International	186.10	186.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott International	186.10	186.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott International	186.10	186.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott Global	191.10	191.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Global	191.10	191.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Global	191.10	191.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Global	191.10	191.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott Real Estate	196.10	196.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Real Estate	196.10	196.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Real Estate	196.10	196.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Real Estate	196.10	196.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott Infrastructure	201.10	201.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Infrastructure	201.10	201.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Infrastructure	201.10	201.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Infrastructure	201.10	201.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott Commodities	206.10	206.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Commodities	206.10	206.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Commodities	206.10	206.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Commodities	206.10	206.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott Hedge	211.10	211.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Hedge	211.10	211.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Hedge	211.10	211.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Hedge	211.10	211.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott Alternative	216.10	216.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Alternative	216.10	216.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Alternative	216.10	216.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Alternative	216.10	216.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott Special	221.10	221.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Special	221.10	221.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Special	221.10	221.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Special	221.10	221.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott Private	226.10	226.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Private	226.10	226.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Private	226.10	226.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Private	226.10	226.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott Venture	231.10	231.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Venture	231.10	231.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Venture	231.10	231.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Venture	231.10	231.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott Growth	236.10	236.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Growth	236.10	236.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Growth	236.10	236.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Growth	236.10	236.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott Income	241.10	241.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Income	241.10	241.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Income	241.10	241.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Income	241.10	241.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott Bond	246.10	246.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Bond	246.10	246.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Bond	246.10	246.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Bond	246.10	246.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott Equity	251.10	251.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Equity	251.10	251.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Equity	251.10	251.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Equity	251.10	251.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott Dividend	256.10	256.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Dividend	256.10	256.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Dividend	256.10	256.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Dividend	256.10	256.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott Cash	261.10	261.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Cash	261.10	261.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Cash	261.10	261.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Cash	261.10	261.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott High Yield	266.10	266.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott High Yield	266.10	266.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott High Yield	266.10	266.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott High Yield	266.10	266.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott International	271.10	271.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott International	271.10	271.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott International	271.10	271.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott International	271.10	271.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott Global	276.10	276.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Global	276.10	276.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Global	276.10	276.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Global	276.10	276.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott Real Estate	281.10	281.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Real Estate	281.10	281.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Real Estate	281.10	281.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Real Estate	281.10	281.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott Infrastructure	286.10	286.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Infrastructure	286.10	286.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Infrastructure	286.10	286.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Infrastructure	286.10	286.10	0.00	0.00
Abbott Commodities	291.10	291.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Commodities	291.10	291.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Commodities	291.10	291.10	0.00	0.00	Abbott Commodities	291.10	291.10	0.00	0.00

Unions attacked for threatening economy

Steelworkers in Germany set strike deadline

FROM REUTERS IN FRANKFURT

GERMANY'S powerful IG Metall union yesterday gave steel employers two weeks to improve a pay offer for 130,000 steelworkers or risk facing the first steel strike in more than a decade.

The union, however, handed German industry an olive branch with what some economists said was an unexpectedly moderate 1992 pay demand for four million engineering workers.

Franz Steinkühler, the Metall president, said the union would seek a maximum 9.5 per cent pay rise for engineers. "We are deliberately not insisting on a double-digit rise," he said.

The call for a steel strike follows the breakdown of talks on Monday, when IG Metall negotiators rejected an average 5.2 per cent pay rise for steelworkers scheduled to start in November. IG Metall will

ballot its members in the steel industry from January 26 on whether they favour strike action.

"The German steel sector has not held a strike since 1978-9. The union wants an immediate 1.1 per cent rise in the wage used as a basis for negotiations and 10.5 per cent more on top.

Klaus Zwickel, the union's deputy president, said: "The employers are now the only ones with the ability to prevent industrial action." The union emphasised it was open to further talks before the strike ballot started.

Union officials drew a clear distinction between the situation in the steel sector and the start of the engineering workers' talks, which began with their call for a maximum 9.5 per cent rise.

The 1992 wage round in the German engineering sector

starts in spring. The current agreement expires on March 31. Union officials said their demand was intended to show a reasonable, objective approach to wages, after strong criticism from the Bundesbank, employers and politicians that pay claims above 10 per cent — which have come from various sectors — were economically unjustifiable and could push Germany into a recession.

The slowing German economy cannot bear large wage rises as well as finance a recovery in eastern Germany, critics of large pay rises say.

OETV, the public sector union, said on Tuesday that it was prepared to strike to back its 9.5 per cent 1992 pay claim. Bank workers are planning token strikes this week to back their 10.5 per cent claim.

Herr Steinkühler said the IG Metall claim was based on its expectations of 1992 productivity growth of 1.5 to two per cent and inflation of 4 to 4.5 per cent. The rest of the demand was to correct in part a slide in wages compared with profits.

German economists say, however, that even the 9.5 per cent claim is still too high for comfort and that unions must settle below 6 per cent if economic stability is to be maintained.

Although the economy can probably take a short strike in the steel sector in its stride, a full-blown strike in the engineering sector would be catastrophic, economists say. Jean-Claude Paye, the OECD secretary general, gave warning that jobless rates will rise further this year and he criticised rich industrial countries for their attempts to "juggle the root causes of unemployment" (see report on page 10).

"The record so far has not been all that satisfactory," he told labour ministers at the start of a two-day meeting in Paris. "Despite solid economic growth over a prolonged period, our labour market institutions, private-sector practices and government policies have not succeeded in mobilising and using the full potential of our human resources," he said.

With unemployment levels unlikely to recede to 1991 levels before 1993, despite the expected economic rebound, the OECD leader said remedial measures were needed, especially to help the most needy and vulnerable. "But the fundamental challenge is to ensure these actions are consistent with the objective of fundamental reform, and do not delay, impede or impair the adjustment that is needed to provide the basis for sustained growth of employment," he said.

The OECD leader emphasised the need for a speedier matching of people and jobs. This issue, closely linked to the acquisition of skills, was the key to higher productivity, output and employment, he said.



Parted company: Derek Lewis, the former chief executive of Granada

Ex-Granada chief's payoff concerns shareholders

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

INSTITUTIONAL shareholders of Granada Group, the leisure conglomerate, have expressed concern at the size of the £579,550 payoff to Derek Lewis, the former chief executive, which was shown in the company's 1991 report and accounts, published yesterday.

Mr Lewis left the company in July, after institutions extracted his departure as the price for a £310 million rights issue to prop up the heavily indebted balance sheet. He had been chief executive for a year and is thought to have been on a three-year contract worth about £200,000 a year.

One major shareholder in the company said the payment to Mr Lewis "sounds a bit more than expected". He added: "It's not something we are over the moon about, but what can we achieve by opposing it... We're never happy about these things but there's been worse over the years."

His comments were echoed by another large institutional holder of the shares, who said: "This sort of thing leaves us cold, we don't think people should be rewarded when they leave the company in these circumstances, but we understand why it happens." Shareholders were powerless to oppose payments of this kind, except by engaging in "massive amounts of litigation," he said.

Shares in Granada slumped 27p to 184p when a grim trading statement accompanied the announcement of Mr Lewis's departure in May last year. However, the Granada

shares have since recovered much of the lost ground and yesterday closed up 1p at 209p.

Gerry Robinson, the former chairman of Compass Group, the contract catering company, was appointed as Mr Lewis's successor in October.

The City has become increasingly concerned about the size of the payoffs awarded to ousted senior executives seen as responsible for the problems affecting some of Britain's biggest companies. A £2 million payoff to Ralph Halpern, the former chair-

man and chief executive of Burton Group, created a furore in November 1990, when he resigned from the company. However, Mr Lewis's payment is not being seen as provocative as that made to Mr Halpern.

The Granada accounts also show that David Plowright, another director, has exercised an option on a Cheshire house, which was granted by the company when he joined the board in 1981. The option has enabled him to purchase the house at its then value of £81,153. It is currently valued at £425,000.

Buyout failure prompts loss of 60 jobs at Hoare Govett

BY MICHAEL CLARK

HOARE GOVETT, the stockbroker, has been forced to cut 60 jobs from its total workforce of 440 after the failure of last year's management buyout.

The firm, which is a subsidiary of Security Pacific, the American bank, said the job losses would be achieved through a mixture of redundancies and early retirement. They include 39 job losses in the "front office", made up of brokers, salesmen and market-makers, and 21 in the "back office" in positions related to settlement and administration.

Among the casualties is Richard Jeffries, the economist who was reputed to be earning an annual six-figure salary.

The firm will, however, continue to operate a downgraded economics research department.

Hoare will cease researching about 145 companies, but will continue to cover a further 325 companies, accounting for about 80 per cent of stock market capitalisation.

The firm will also stop making markets in 137 companies, reducing the number of quoted companies it trades in to 400.

Peter Meinerzhagen, chairman of Hoare Govett, said: "We are focusing on our strengths, but we are now covering, in both terms of research and trading, the same companies we specialised in before Big Bang in 1986."

In addition to the winding down of the economics team, Hoare has also closed down its mergers and acquisitions team.

Mr Meinerzhagen added: "We aim to create the type of firm we believe will compete successfully in the marketplace."

Meanwhile, Hoare is continuing to negotiate with at least half-a-dozen different suitors in order to extricate itself from Security Pacific. However, no clear-cut buyer has yet emerged.

Mr Meinerzhagen said: "It could be next week, it

could be in three months' time before the deal is finally clinched."

Hoare's original management buyout was abandoned after Security Pacific merged with Bank of America last year.

Royal Life raises payout

Royal Life has increased the payout on 25-year endowment policies maturing after February 1, 1992, by 12 per cent but the payout on ten-year endowments maturing this year has fallen 5 per cent.

Royal said the increase was due mainly to changes to the bonus structure last year.

Power profit
Power Corporation, the Irish property company that is unwinding its joint venture relationship with Brent Walker Group, reports pre-tax profits of £15.1 million (£4.86 million) for the nine months to September 30. There is an interim dividend of 2p a share.

Trust return
Aberforth Split Level Trust, the split capital investment trust, reports a return on assets of 5.1 per cent from May 14, 1991, to end-December 1991. There is a second quarterly dividend of 2p per income share, making 4p total.

Contract won
GEC Alsthom, in consortium with Balfour Beatty Projects and Engineering, has won a £370 million turnkey contract for the Thames Power 1,000 megawatt gas-fired power station to be built at Barking Reach, East London.

Cluff issue
Cluff Resources' £8.3 million rights issue of 11-for-20 at 34p a share has been 37.81 per cent subscribed. The shares closed 1p up at 31p.

Ratners to decide on payment of dividend in US

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH

RATNERS Group directors, led by James McAdam, the new chairman, were in talks last night over the crucial issue of whether to continue paying the dividend on the group's American preference shares. The total payment for the financial year starting next month is expected to be £26 million.

The urgent meeting was taking place at the same time as the latest tranche of variable dividend preference shares came up for auction in America. Because of credit downgradings by Moody's and Standard & Poor's, the American credit rating agencies, the rate of interest Ratners would have to pay on last night's auction would be 11.25 per cent, the equivalent of 250 per cent of the American commercial paper rate.

The last time this tranche came to auction, Ratners had to pay 8.752 per cent, equivalent to 175 per cent of the American commercial paper rate.

If Ratners decides not to pay the dividend on this tranche, which it is at liberty to do, it will not be able to pay the dividends on any of the other preference shares as they all have equal ranking. Ratners has four tranches of auction market preferred stock (AMPS), each worth \$50 million, and each tranche comes up for auction every 28 days, which means there is an auction every week. The shares can only be redeemed at the option of the issuer.

If Ratners decides not to pay the dividend, it rolls up and is payable at a future date. However, Ratners will have to pay the rolled-up divi-

dend on the preference shares before it can resume paying any dividend to ordinary shareholders. The group said that it would pay no final ordinary dividend for the current year, when it forecast losses of £72 million for the current year.

When he was appointed last week, Mr McAdam said that the issue of whether or not to pay the preference dividends was "a sensitive and complex issue". The group refused to comment on the matter last night.

Analysts were speculating last week that some of Ratners' bankers were putting pressure on the group not to pay the preference dividend but that some of Ratners' directors were keen to pay the dividends to prevent financial problems at a later date. There are also fears of a pre-emptive strike by holders of other classes of Ratners equity if the preference dividends are not paid.



McAdam: leading talks

EC and US to restart farm talks

FROM REUTERS IN BRUSSELS

RAY MacSharry, the European farm commissioner, could meet Ed Madigan, the American agriculture secretary, at the end of next week to discuss farming aspects of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade negotiations, according to EC officials.

The two men last met in Brussels on December 20, when they failed to make headway on the farm trade chapter of the talks.

The extent to which subsidy systems distort trade is one of the most contentious issues arising from the compromise paper drawn up by Arthur Dunkel, the director general of GATT, as the basis for com-

pleting the five-year negotiations.

The Uruguay round talks remain dominated as they have been over the past five years by the struggle over farm subsidy cuts, waged mainly between the European Community on one hand and America and other major farm exporters on the other.

However, many of the exporters feel the time for changes in draft proposals is past. New Zealand's ambassador told the steering group for the Uruguay round talks on Monday that his country "is opposed to changes in the 20 December package". New Zealand is a leading member of the Cairns group of 14 farm-exporting countries, many of which voiced

strong reservations about any attempt to reopen the debate on what they viewed as a finely balanced package.

Cairns members, along with America, have said the Dunkel package has already seriously watered down their original demands for 75 per cent to 90 per cent cuts in farm subsidies. The Dunkel package envisages cuts of 20 per cent to 36 per cent.

In a speech to farmers in Kansas City on Monday, President George Bush showed frustration with EC efforts to protect its Common Agricultural Policy. He said: "Sooner or later the European Community must stop hiding behind its own 'iron curtain' of protectionism."

However, Tran Van-Thinh,

the EC ambassador, told the steering group there would have to be serious improvements in the Dunkel text — meaning more protection for farmers.

Japan, South Korea, Austria, Switzerland and the Scandinavian countries have also pressed for changes in the agricultural text.

Mr Dunkel's aim is to end the Uruguay round by mid-April. He said he felt it his duty to serve as an honest broker in discussions on adjusting his package, but added: "This exercise must be precise and concentrated entirely on what we can all collectively agree to without unravelling the package."

Diplomats said those seeking to make changes would have to make major concessions elsewhere in order to leave the overall balance of the Dunkel package intact.

But for many of the Cairns members agriculture is the most important sector of their economies and the basic farm proposals are the most important provisions in the Dunkel text.

Non-EC diplomats said it was difficult to imagine concessions large enough to convince them that they should agree to smaller cuts in farm support or to increased protection.

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مكتبة ابن رشد

New horizons open for Fisons

The precise sequence of events that led to the retirement of John Kerridge at Fisons should perhaps be left to him, his family and his doctor. But pharmaceutical analysts were shocked to learn that Mr Kerridge was going entirely, rather than merely handing over the chief executive's reins to another. Mr Kerridge, who ran Fisons out of Ipswich as something of a personal fiefdom, had occasionally difficult relations with the City and did not care for collaborative ventures with other drug companies. Growing institutional dislike of a dual role and a share price down 43 per cent since the summer meant some change looked inevitable. Mr Kerridge's achievements over the last decade are undeniable: he created, virtually from scratch, Britain's fourth largest pharmaceutical operation and allowed shareholders to ride the wave that produced outstanding results for other drug companies.

The problem facing Mr Kerridge's successor is the gap that has opened up between Glaxo, SmithKline Beecham and Wellcome, the three majors, and Fisons itself, which suggests the company lacks the critical mass to go into the 1990s as an independent.

The problems with the FDA that have sparked the share price decline are something of a temporary blip. The new chief executive — and all the pointers are to an outside applicant with a strong pharmaceuticals background — will be in a better position than Mr Kerridge to consider joint ventures, joint promotions and other strategic link-ups. That is not to say that the hostile assault dreamed of by some state bulls is just around the corner, if only because contested bids are not the rule in pharmaceuticals. But optimists might ponder the analogy with Beecham, once a sleepy drugs concern, where the arrival of Bob Bauman as a new and dynamic chief executive presaged the link-up with SmithKline that created a true world player in pharmaceuticals.

Pounding eases

Sterling is not out of the woods yet but it is looking a lot safer, thanks partly to a technical quirk of the ERM. Until very recently, the so-called "peseta floor" provided no real support for the pound — like the floor of an elevator it simply moved up and down with sterling. But in the last few weeks, this situation has abruptly changed. Last year the Spanish currency generally hovered some 4 to 5 per cent above its central rate against the mark. This left plenty of room for investors to lose money if and when Spain moved its currency into an ERM narrow band. But in the past two weeks the weakness of the pound has dragged the peseta down to within 2 per cent of its central rate against the mark. At this level, the peseta's sky-high interest rates become irresistibly attractive to investors. Since there is believed to be no devaluation risk.

As a result, the support for sterling at about its present level may be stronger than generally supposed. For whenever the pound falls below DM2.8350, the peseta automatically moves within 2 per cent above the mark. At this level, the Spanish currency becomes an irresistible buy against the mark. Speculators sell marks against pesetas and as a by-product the mark weakens against the pound as well. This technical oddity could not defend the pound against a really strong speculative attack, but it may just stay off the moment of truth when the pound falls to its ultimate floor of DM2.78 and the government has to choose to devalue or raise interest rates.

Curtain is raised for act two of the BCCI tragedy

Neil Bennett looks ahead to the problems facing the liquidators charged with clearing up the biggest banking failure in history

As one scene of the drama at the Bank of Credit and Commerce International ends, another is just beginning. The new scene will engage a cast of thousands as liquidators, lawyers and bank regulators mill around trying to make sense of the largest and most complex bank failure in history. The audience will need considerable patience since the performance will last well into the next millennium before BCCI is finally laid to rest.

The decision by the High Court in London to place BCCI in formal liquidation was a foregone conclusion. Hopes of rescuing and refloating the bank with new capital and management had evaporated months ago as Touche Ross, the provisional liquidator, uncovered the full extent of the losses. At the hearing, Sir Donald Nicholls, the Vice-Chancellor, summed up the situation when he described the bank as "plainly and hopelessly insolvent".

Figures from Touche Ross demonstrate the bank's dire financial position. BCCI claimed to have gross assets of \$11.7 billion when it was closed on July 5. But a series of provisions and write-offs mean that less than a tenth of this will eventually be available for depositors.

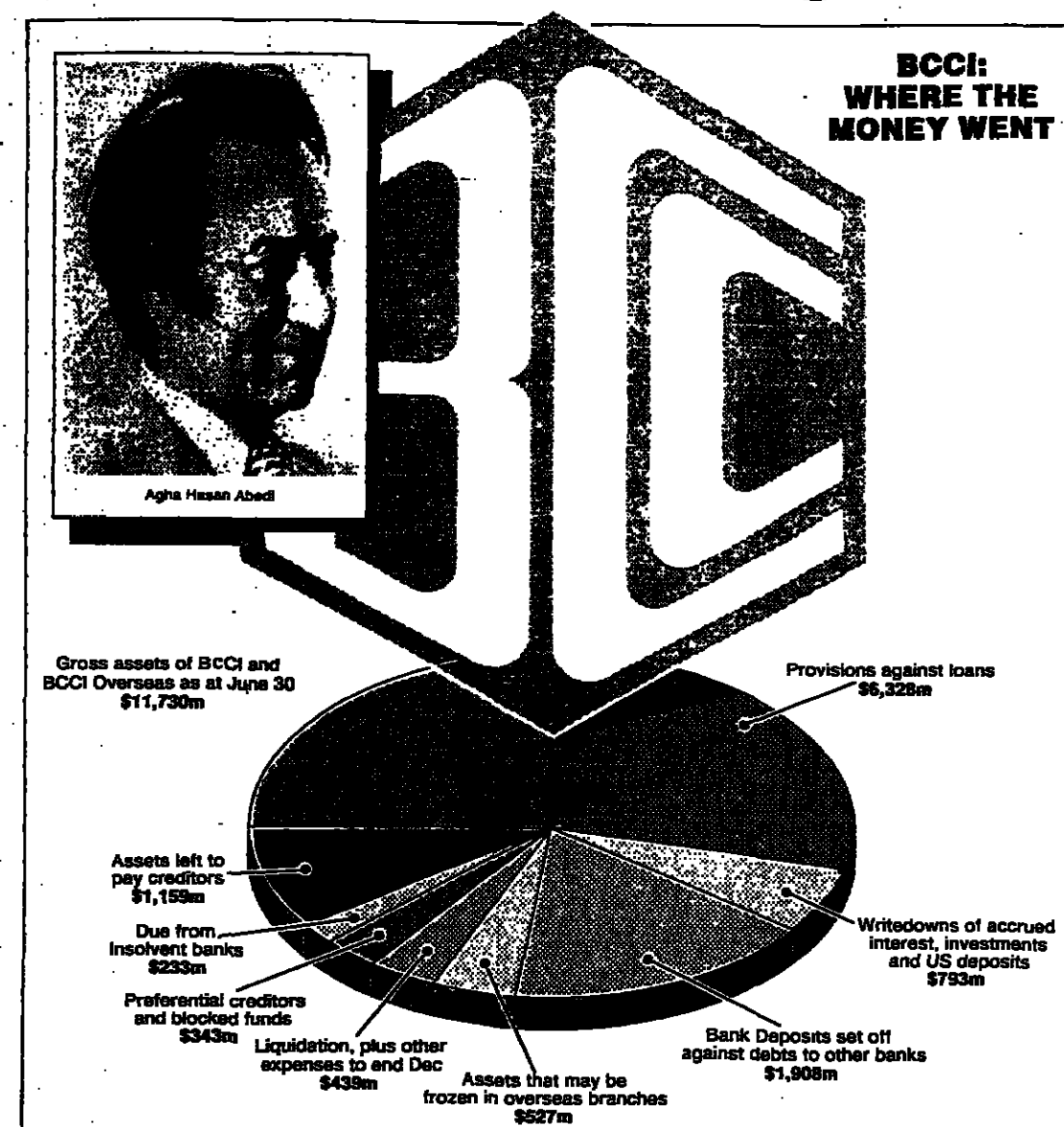
The largest write-off is \$6.33 billion in bad debt provisions on the bank's fraud-riddled loan book. The next, at \$1.91 billion, is for set off where other banks are withholding BCCI's assets to offset them against its liabilities. Liquidation expenses, asset write-downs and other legal and accounting black holes reduce the assets still further.

Without the Abu Dhabi government, the outlook for BCCI's 800,000 worldwide depositors would be bleak. There would be a scramble in many jurisdictions as creditors and even bank regulators tried to ringfence assets to secure preferential treatment.

The crossing legal actions would last years, if not decades and most of the bank's remaining funds would be spent defending futile lawsuits. Fortunately, Touche Ross and the Abu Dhabi government are close to an agreement which may avoid all this. This involves pooling all the assets of BCCI Holdings and Overseas, the two main companies within the bank group. The Abu Dhabi government, BCCI's 77 per cent shareholder, will then inject an estimated \$3 billion into this.

The scheme would allow Touche Ross to pay a first dividend to BCCI's creditors worldwide of 10 cents in the dollar later this year, and eventually return up to 40 per cent of the bank's deposits.

There are large hurdles to cross before the plan becomes a reality,



however. First, the Abu Dhabi government, led by Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahyan, and Touche Ross have to agree to the settlement. Touche Ross announced yesterday that it hoped to sign the agreement by the end of the month.

This however is only the first stage in a delicate piece of international diplomacy. The plan must be approved by courts in Luxembourg and the Cayman Islands, where the bank's main operations were registered, and in Britain.

Most crucially of all, the scheme has to be backed by all BCCI's depositors. Brian Smouha, the BCCI administrator from Touche Ross, is currently travelling around the world sounding out the bank's creditors, and winning their support. All it takes is one or two depositors to object to the terms and to start legal action against the bank to try to recover a higher proportion of their money and the house of cards that has been delicately built over the last six months will collapse.

The scheme will then need to be approved in all the countries where BCCI once operated, unless its operations there have already been sold.

Insolvency experts have spent 20 years trying and failing to devise a practical code to deal with international liquidations. The accountants and lawyers working on BCCI have been forced to build that framework

in so many weeks. The process will not be cheap: Touche Ross estimates it will cost \$239 million.

Inevitably, some countries will decide to ringfence their operations to secure a better deal for local depositors, however generous the Abu Dhabi offer. Touche Ross has made a \$527 million provision for this.

A number of financial groups and businessmen have recently tried to obscure the issues in the liquidation by proposing plans which they claim will give creditors a far higher payout than the one offered by Sheikh Zayed. Professionals close to the liquidation view any scheme which offers a dividend of 70 per cent or 80 per cent with amazement, since the quality of BCCI's assets simply do not justify it. There is a real risk that these shadowy proposals could obscure the one firm life-line depositors are being offered.

Fortunately, BCCI's British depositors have been treated better than most in the rest of the world. In July, the Abu Dhabi government contributed £42 million to an emergency compensation scheme for the bank's 38,000 British sterling depositors. The scheme paid three quarters of each deposit up to a £5,000 ceiling.

The maximum sum would have covered the vast majority of BCCI's British customers. Surprisingly,

however, less than a third have applied to Touche Ross for compensation, even though the accountants have sent out 53,000 letters urging people to apply.

Undoubtedly, some depositors are still unaware that the scheme exists, and may have been hampered by language barriers. Nevertheless, the figures show that there are a large number of depositors unwilling to lay claim to their funds, possibly because they are being investigated by tax and customs officers.

The liquidation order granted by the High Court now allows the Bank of England's deposit protection scheme to come into force. This refunds three-quarters of each deposit up to a £15,000 maximum. The scheme will also refund the Abu Dhabi government the amount it has paid out in the interim period.

So only BCCI's larger depositors in Britain will remain seriously out of pocket, including local authorities and Channel 4 television.

The BCCI affair has left no one looking respectable. Bank regulators have appeared naive and incompetent, accountants glib and the police ineffective.

Authorities across the world were duped by a systematic fraud on an unimaginable scale. They can only learn by their mistakes.

Lloyd's to present survival blueprint

This morning, Lloyd's of London will present the fourth of the reforming reports that have transformed the face of the insurance market over the past quarter of a century.

Much is expected of the report, as Lloyd's faces problems on perhaps more fronts than at any time in its 300-year history. However, unlike its illustrious forerunners, Cromer, Fisher and Neill, the Rowland report is primarily a soul-searching exercise carried out by the market itself. All but three of the members of the taskforce were insiders and David Rowland, the chairman, heads one of the largest firms of Lloyd's brokers.

His taskforce began life just over a year ago as a relatively low-key examination of the capital base of Lloyd's. It was commissioned by Murray Lawrence, then outgoing chairman, and David Coleridge, his successor. Since then, the extraordinary public airing of Lloyd's problems and the continuing commercial difficulties dogging the market, have raised the status of the report from technical discussion paper to blueprint for survival. Mr Coleridge has promised no sacred cows, so expectations of fairly radical reform have been running high both among those who work at Lloyd's and the names who supply the capital.

Shortest odds among the tipsters are being given on some form of watering down of the practice, but not the principle, of unlimited liability. This would mean that names would continue to operate as sole traders, liable to their last farthing, but that the community as a whole would pick up the tab in excess of a certain point, in the event of truly horrendous losses. The hope is that this form of limited "mutualisation" would restore confidence in Lloyd's to a wealthy potential name who was considering joining but was put off by the unlimited downside risk. In that way Lloyd's could halt the haemorrhaging of names that has afflicted the market in recent years.

Inevitably, this safety net will have to be funded by the names themselves, and the size of the resulting levy on names will be another point of keen interest. There are almost certain to be further technical measures to improve names' confidence in their agents and the syndicates they are placed on.

The report should also have something to say about the traditional but confusing three-year accounting system that operates at Lloyd's. Many have called for a one-year system, in line with the insurance companies, but practical difficulties might make this proposal a bridge too far.

In general, the report will recommend confidence-building measures that can be implemented within the existing legislative framework. The last thing Lloyd's wants right now is a new bill passing through Parliament at a time of widespread public criticism of the market.

JONATHAN PRYNN

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Butler is back in oil analysis

AFTER two years out of the market, Liz Butler, once ranked among the top ten oil analysts in the City, has staged a comeback. Butler, aged 47, married to an Oxford academic and the mother of two daughters, aged 23 and 21, has just started work at Panmure Gordon, as its sole analyst covering the oil sector. Since resigning from Leasing & Cruickshank in January 1990, after a disagreement over management style, Butler has kept herself busy by assisting, in a consultancy capacity, John Browne, head of exploration at BP and a member of the main board. "I kept turning down offers from various broking firms but being a consultant is a very lonely business and I suddenly realised that I actually missed broking," Butler says. That realisation dawned on her after sharing a pot of tea with John Walsley, finance director of Enterprise Oil. "He said that there was a scarcity of good oil analysts and suggested that I go back into the City," she adds. It will, however, take her time to re-acclimatise. "It all seems terribly strange," she says. "I'd even forgotten how to use Topic."

Family ties

BLOOD really is thicker than water. Bernard Attali, the Algerian-born chairman of Air France, is involved in negotiations for a consortium of investors, led by Air France, to buy up to 40 per cent of CSA, Czechoslovakia's national airline, for \$60 million. A memorandum of



understanding" to that effect was signed in Prague last week. Although it was not referred to in the memorandum, it is believed that other investors in the consortium are Caisse des Depots et Consignations (the French state-controlled pension fund and savings bank) and the London-based European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, otherwise known as EBRD. EBRD's chairman is Jacques Attali, aged 48, a former French presidential adviser, and Bernard's twin brother.

THE New York Times notes that *The Lord's Prayer* contains 56 words, the 23rd Psalm 118 words and the Ten Commandments 297 words. By contrast, the American department of agriculture's directive on the pricing of cabbage takes no less than 15,629 words.

Ward joins Capita

SHANDWICK, the world's biggest public relations company, has said goodbye to Clive Ward, who joined two

years ago to advise on acquisitions. Ward, who spent two years on the takeover panel in the Seventies, was head of corporate finance at Ernst & Young before signing up as corporate development director at Shandwick in 1990 — at the tail end, as it turned out, of the company's aggressive expansion policy. He has now joined Capita, the management services group, to head a new corporate finance division there. "I advised both companies on their formations," says Ward, aged 46, who has been planning the move for the past year. "I joined Shandwick to help with acquisitions, but my timing wasn't the best. It became apparent to me that I was a cost they could do without."

Taking over panel

WHEN Frances Heaton starts her two-year stint as director general of the takeover panel in March, she will find that most of the points he raises are very fully discussed in Ralph Howell's paper *Why not Work*, to which reference was made in Eamonn Butler's article (December 19). Mr Howell deals with the practical aspects of introducing and running a "workfare" type scheme and draws on the experience of other countries.

As to who would organise

Regulators need fraud early warning system

From Mr Brian Taylor

Sir, Articles in the press have pointed out that someone must have known what was happening inside Maxwell's empire.

Telling the truth can be costly.

I have twice in my career revealed to the regulators of a company that fraud was taking place. On the first occasion, the fraud was so serious it would have threatened the viability of the company's entire Far Eastern operation. For this reason, the company decided to cover up the truth. I was dismissed with a bad reference. My solicitor advised me not to take on a

company with the resources to hire the best defence in the land.

On the second occasion, I was warmly thanked, but my contract was discontinued. The fraudster was subsequently prosecuted. But it was feared I might talk to the staff.

I cannot emphasise too strongly how isolated and vulnerable you feel when you realise that your boss is a crook. You are utterly alone and there is nobody to confide in. Your family will suffer financially if the wrongdoer suspects you know too much. When you think about Maxwell's habit of pursuing his

opponents through the courts, your feeling of horror becomes intolerable.

One answer for the banks, or someone is to set up a scheme to advise innocent directors and accountants who suspect a large-scale fraud. In return, the directors would reveal what they have seen and heard to the regulators. Million-pound fraud is a growth industry.

If the regulators can detect it early, they will save a fortune.

Yours sincerely, BRIAN TAYLOR, 57 Orchard Way, Burwell, Cambridge.

Workfare as opposed to workshare

From Mr John Shedden

Sir, Your correspondent, Mr Jubb, has directed several questions to me (Business letters, January 8), but he will find that most of the points he raises are very fully discussed in Ralph Howell's paper *Why not Work*, to which reference was made in Eamonn Butler's article (December 19). Mr Howell deals with the practical aspects of introducing and running a "workfare" type scheme and draws on the experience of other countries.

As to who would organise

and oversee workfare, it would seem that, being recently retired, the application of Mr Jubb's "workshare" principles would surely disqualify me. Mr Howell's much better suggestion is that some of the organisation's work could be done by persons themselves in workfare, as part of their workfare experience.

Yours sincerely, J.B. SHEDDEN, 6 Barnfield Close, Crookhill, Kent.

Economic rule that points to failure

From Mr D.H. Walton

Sir, One economic rule I have never seen written down is: "Socialist systems only work when run by capitalists whilst capitalist systems always fail when run by socialists."

I fear if this rule is as true as

experience has shown, the ex-Soviet empire, which is still largely run by socialists, will unfortunately fail.

Yours truly, DAVID WALTON, 10 St Guthlac's Close, Crowland, Lincolnshire.

Strip tease

From Mr B.S. Hyman

Sir, If Bob Tyrrell of the Henley Centre for Forecasting does succeed in becoming the Gypsy Rose Lee of the financial world (The only place to be is number one, business profile, January 11), I look forward to watching him divest himself of his clothing, item by item, as he feeds us the statistics. Being free, as Gillian Bowditch implies, of the sin of false modesty, he should have nothing to hide.

Sorry Gillian, as older readers will know, Gypsy Rose Lee was a stripper, not a fortune-teller. You're thinking of Gypsy Penulengro (the kerchief-headed Russell Grant of my childhood), a bastion of the Woman's Own Centre For Forecasting.

Tyrrell's likelihood of voting Liberal Democrat is particularly interesting. Does this constitute a forecast of their impending success? Yours faithfully, BARRY S. HYMAN, 4 Priory View, Bushey Heath, Hertfordshire.

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22	GEC	Electrical	
23	Mission Ther	Breweries	
24	Morgan Cole	Industrial, Retail	
25	Red Int	Newspapers, Publishing	
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27	Tipthorpe	Transport	
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32	Macys Spencer	Drugs, Retail	
33	Smith West	Water	
34	Eurochem	Chemicals	
35	Nitin Foods	Food	
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39	Tonkin	Industrial	
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Prices close at day's high

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began January 13. Dealings end January 24. Settlement day January 27. Settlement day February 3. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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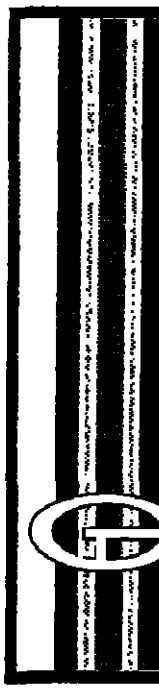
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The Sales Director of this busy, friendly, Chiswick-based company specialising in office furniture needs a first class secretary to become truly involved in every aspect of his work.

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There are three positions at different levels, but the common bond between them is an 'A' level education, familiarity with the secretarial role, superior inter-personal skills, commonsense, numeracy and initiative. A knowledge of office automation would be a bonus.

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Ideally aged 28-35, with at least two years supervisory experience which includes running an office of more than 15 people, or administration experience within a personnel function.

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Minimum age 25 years with some supervisory experience. Initially you would be working with a Divisional Administrator and progress to your own area of responsibility.

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Providing full secretarial support to the Group Legal Advisor, you will tackle a variety of tasks from organising meetings to handling telephone queries and dealing with daily correspondence. Strong organisational skills are essential together with the ability to work under pressure.

Liaising with staff at all levels, you should have a diplomatic and efficient telephone manner, fast, accurate typing and audio experience. Basic word processing skills would be useful although training will be given, and experience or knowledge of a legal environment would be advantageous.

Salary will be around £15,500 depending on experience.

Successful applicants for interview will be contacted within six weeks.

Please write with full CV, quoting reference L/749/T, by 27 January 1992, to Jane Isaacs, Group Legal Advisor, LWT, The London Television Centre, London SE1 9LT.

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✓ Suitably qualified applicants with disabilities will be offered an interview.

LWT
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This is a year of continuing major change within the NHS and many new and exciting developments are taking place. Applicants for the post of Personal Assistant to the Dean will have administrative, organisational, secretarial, wordprocessing and audio skills. They may well be graduates and will have the capacity to participate actively in the development of structured post graduate training of doctors.

We offer a salary in the range of £13,171 - £16,401 inclusive of London Allowance, with generous holidays. The office is well placed for commuting and there is a no smoking policy.

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Telephone 071-379 0333

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£16,000 City

The European sales office of one of Japan's largest publishers is seeking an experienced and mature secretary for the Sales Director and to assist a Sales Executive in a wide variety of secretarial and administrative functions.

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Interest free travel loan provided.

No Agencies.

Please send CV and details of current salary to:

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A quiet, steady, well-organized young Sec with good skills is sought by the major int. bank. Working mainly for a Director whilst helping to support his staff, they must be able to deal with sensitive issues and be able to deal with senior management. Duties incl Diary, travel arrangements & client liaison. Working office, a busy environment & the best of banking hours (incl M.Su) are offered in return for hard work. Call now.

CROSS SELECTION 071 283 0799

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CROSS SELECTION 071 283 0799

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£13,500

We are a leading international firm of property consultants. We have a vacancy in our West End Office for an Audio Secretary with a minimum of 2 years experience ideally in a property environment using Wang PC. If you have the necessary qualifications please apply with a concise C.V. to:

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Man-board Director of a top City Co. requires a shorthand PA with a bright personality, ideally you'll be 25+ with a good education and be capable of handling various secretarial duties and be able to deal with senior management. Best and Personal. Tel: 071 929 1281 or Fax your CV 071 921 8885. Monument Rec Cons.

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THE JHR Secretary to Senior Partner of major City Co. is extremely difficult, role, intense, demands the earth - and runs around in a tizz!

YOU: Patient, personable, Enduring, nice, calm & super efficient 30+, with 100 Shorthand and fast WP skills. Good knowledge of German essential, Spanish or French useful.

Want to know more? Please call NICOLA on 071-494 4828

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ADMIN/GENERAL ASSISTANT

£12,000 - £14,000

An Gallery in St James's requires a capable, organized 'all rounder' able to work on their own initiative and cope with under pressure.

Previous administrative experience and excellent presentation skills, including sales, 80wpm 5/10 or equivalent, essential.

Contact Harriet on: 071-939 6859

071-377 2666

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£16,000-£18,000

Enjoy a PA role assisting the MD of this financial institution in the City. Flexibility is the keynote as you must be just as happy to 'muck in' with the team as to work on your own initiative. Experience in the City financial environment is essential + good WP skills (shorthand useful). Age 25-35, generous benefits. Call Nan Myers on

071 377 2666

SECRETARIES PLUS

071-377 2666

EUROPEAN PA

£14K + Mat. Sales++

Leading Int'l Securities

He requires a Group Sec with financial exp plus fluency in either French or German. Not for the faint of heart, you must have good WP, be able to cope with pressure and want client contact.

EXCELLENT BENEFITS! Pls call Macfarlane Recruitment on 071-338 1718.

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PA/SEC

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SECRETARY for busy Medical practice in Queen Anne St. W1

2 days per week 071 636 4278.

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Young Managing Director of busy Fleet Street based advertising group requires a well presented, experienced PA with a good sense of humour and good organisational skills. Top class word processing and shorthand essential. Please contact Angela on 071 583 2100 (No Agencies).

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Australian Open tennis tournament loses its second leading seed in the space of 24 hours

Illness ends Graf's title hopes

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT IN MELBOURNE

YESTERDAY afternoon, Steffi Graf should have been beginning her challenge for the Australian Open title on court one. Instead, she was 35,000 feet up and heading back to Germany, the victim of a viral infection and the second eminent withdrawal within 24 hours.

Graf's sudden departure was more of a surprise than that of Pete Sampras the previous day because she seemed to have recovered from the virus she had in Perth and had been practising hard for the last five days with new coach, Heinz Günthardt, in preparation for a tilt at her fourth Australian Open title.

On Monday, she felt ill again during practice and, yesterday, blood tests confirmed the infection. On doctor's advice, she immediately set off for home. "It is bitterly disappointing for her because she loves playing here," Klaus Hofmann, the German team captain, said.

The loss of the men's No. 6 seed and the women's No. 2 seed, both potential champions, is another piece of bad luck for the organisers here, who had finally attracted the best field in the chequered history of the tournament.

Neither is it an auspicious start to 1992 for the world No. 2, who must have hoped for a clean bill of health in the coming year. Last year, she was forced out of the Federation Cup with a shoulder injury and then had a wrist problem; the previous year, she broke a thumb and had to have a sinus operation.

In the short term, the main beneficiary was Ann Devries of Belgium, who filled Graf's shoes and duly reached the second round. Later next week, Gabriela Sabatini and Monica Seles will surely be the ones taking advantage of Graf's absence.

The Argentinian, winner of the New South Wales Open in Sydney last week, showed no sign of anti-climax against Julie Halard. The French girl looks as fragile as a piece of straw and won just two games — one more than Monica Seles managed against Mary Joe Fernandez.

In the men's singles, the all-

French affair between Henri Leconte and Guy Forget vied for attention with the return of John McEnroe to the centre court, the scene of his expulsion two years ago.

The former lived up to all but the most extravagant expectations; the latter was a non-event. McEnroe's opponent, the ageing Brod Dyke, did not win his first point until the fourth game and did not really get the hang of it then, either.

McEnroe won just as he pleased and without tantrum. It was all eerily reminiscent of the calm before the storm two years ago when he was defaulted. Typically, he is still grumbling about the injustice of it now.

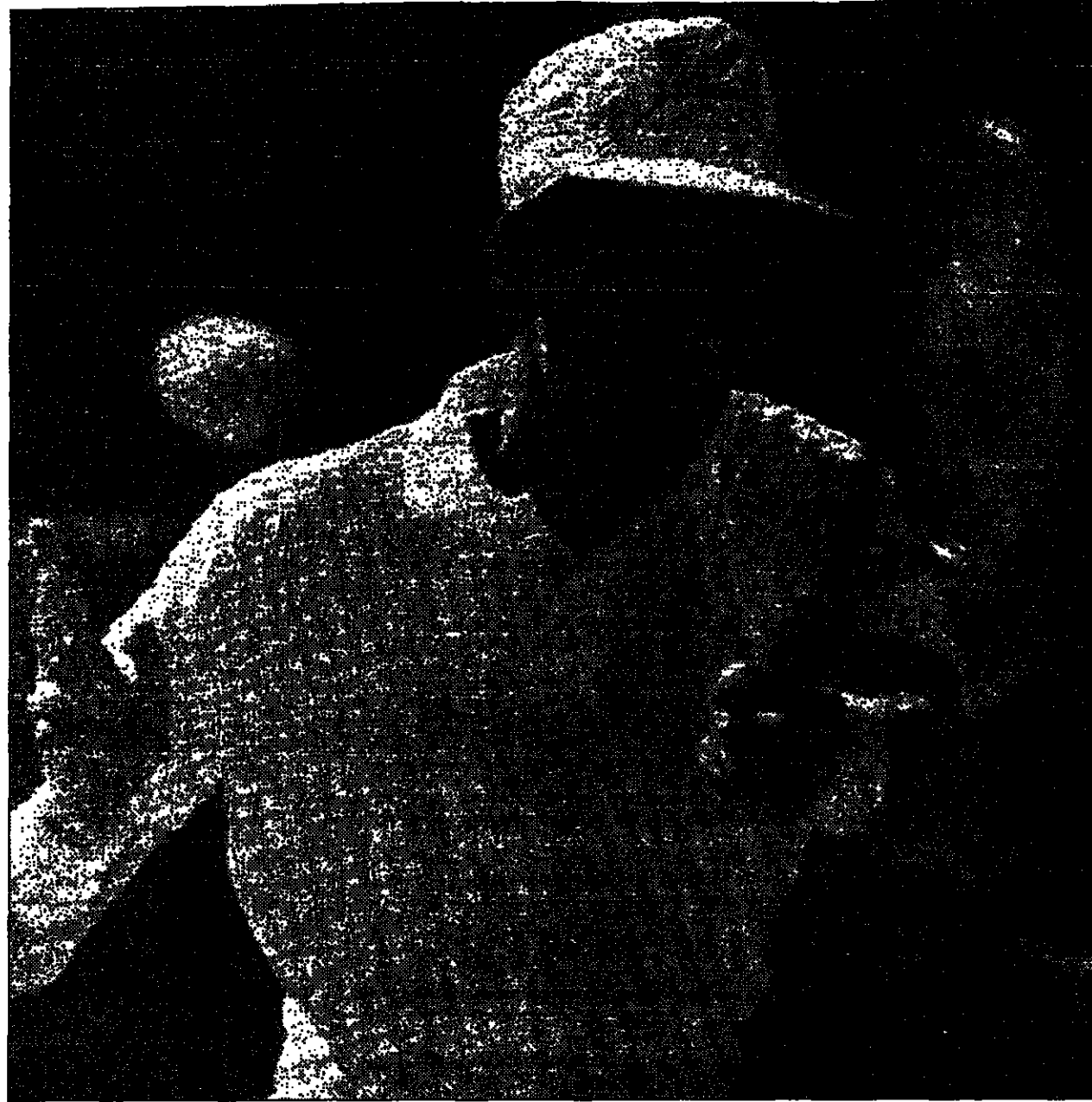
The Gallic duel lasted five sets, and three hours 47 minutes, and ended with winner and loser sitting at a court-side table as if they were enjoying coffee and croissants at a Parisian pavement cafe. "I was telling Guy I was dead," Leconte said. "I've not played five sets for a long time. Not since Wimbledon 1990."

It was a difficult match for both men because companionship, strengthened by Davis Cup exploits, clouded rivalry. Forget, ranked 162 places higher, had more to lose and he clearly had trouble coping with the emotional complications of the match. At times, he did not seem sure whether he wanted to win or not.

"I was not aggressive enough but it proved our friendship," Forget, after his 2-6, 6-4, 6-7, 6-4, 6-3 victory, said. "If I had hated Henri, I would have played better."

Given his lack of fitness, after a series of back operations, Leconte's main chance was to get ahead and stay there. He did that successfully to the middle of the fourth set, when he led by two sets to one and had a break point.

A vintage Forget pass saved the point and, as Leconte's clanking increased and his legs became heavier, the No. 7 seed broke service soon after and twice more in the fifth set. "I am very tired. My body aches all over," Leconte said. Doubtless, Graf will sympathise from far away.



Power play: Forget on his way to a five-set victory over Leconte in the Australian Open yesterday

Men's singles

FIRST ROUND: D. Wheaton (US) bt J. Cash (Aus), 6-4, 6-4; M. Chang (US) bt F. Roese (FR), 6-2, 6-3; M. Gustafsson (Swe) bt G. Muller (SA), 6-4, 6-3; B. Garnett (US) bt G. Doyle (Aus), 6-4, 6-2; J. M. Rosset (Swe) bt H. de la Perte (Arg), 6-2, 6-1; J. McEnroe (US) bt B. Dyke (Aus), 6-2, 6-1; P. Cash (Aus) bt H. Sholl (Aus), 6-1, 7-5; M. Zverev (Ger) bt G. Corwell (Can), 7-6, 6-3; E. Sanchez (Sp) bt A. Pardo (Peru), 6-3, 6-2; G. O. Delaire (FR) bt C. Minussi (Arg), 6-7, 6-4, 6-3; G. Perez (Ur) bt S. Shelton (US), 4-6, 7-6, 6-2; N. Pietrangeli (US) bt T. Wilkison (Aus), 6-0, 6-1, 6-2; W. Ferreira (SA) bt L. Laville (Mex), 6-2, 6-4, 6-3; M. Woodford (Aus) bt J. Yzaga (Peru), 6-4, 7-6, 6-1; C. Canuti (Ur) bt C. Adams (US), 6-7, 6-3, 6-3, 6-0; M. Westphalen (US) bt G. Starford (SA), 6-4, 6-0, 6-1; G. Forget (FR) bt H. Leconte (FR), 2-6, 6-4, 6-7, 6-4, 6-3; J. Stashberg (Aus), 7-6, 6-3, 6-3; J. Courier (US) bt R. Gilbert (FR), 6-4, 7-6, 6-3; A. Manot (FR) bt P. Lundgren (Swe), 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4; T. Enqvist (Swe) bt M. Larsson (Swe), 7-5, 7-6, 7-5; J. Svensson (Swe) bt S. Matsuzaki (Jap), 6-0, 7-5, 6-3; J. Grubb (US) bt P. Rafter (Aus), 3-6, 6-4, 7-6, 6-2; A. Krasatov (US) bt A. Jarryd (Swe), 6-3, 6-7, 6-2, 6-3; G. Proie (Croatia) bt G. Lavender (US), 6-3, 6-4, 7-5; A. Bostach (FR) bt D. Nargiso (It), 6-3, 6-2, 6-4; R. Krajcek (Nett) bt C. Seccombe (Ger), 6-3, 6-4; C. Seccombe (Swe) bt L. Jansson (Swe), 7-6, 7-5, 6-3; V. Jelic (Arg) bt C. van Rensburg (SA), 6-3, 7-5, 6-1; S. B. S. S. Stele (Aus) bt A. Onore (Sp), 3-6, 6-2, 7-5, 4-6, 6-2; M. Stich (Ger) bt J. Sanchez (Sp), 7-5, 6-1, 4-6, 6-3.

Women's singles

FIRST ROUND: M. Kucsis (Ger) bt H. Ludloff (US), 6-3, 6-4; L. Harvey-Wild (US) bt H. Keleni (Can), 6-1, 6-4; A. Sanchez-Vizcarra (Sp) bt H. Proie (Croatia), 6-2, 6-1; J. Novotna (CZ) bt R. Znakova (CZ), 7-6, 6-3; M. J. Fernandez (US) bt M. Javer (Swe), 6-1, 6-0; J. Byrne (Aus) bt S. Hale (Slovakia), 6-1, 6-0; P. Rafter (Aus) bt M. Drake (Can), 6-3, 6-4, 7-5; N. Hounsome (FR) bt P. Karsch (Nett), 4-6, 6-4, 6-4; K. Melrose (GB) bt D. Gasham (US), 6-4, 1-6, 6-4; D. Monami (Bel) bt E. Marinkovic (CZ), 4-6, 7-5, 6-1; R. Ratchford (CZ) bt M. Endo (Jap), 7-6, 6-2, 6-3; N. Pietrangeli (US) bt S. Stanojevic (Serb), 6-4, 6-2; L. Goldenshteyn (Peru) bt M. Werder (US), 6-4, 6-7, 6-1, 6-1, 7-6.

YACHTING

Money no object in attempt to dethrone Conner

FROM KEITH WHEATLEY IN SAN DIEGO

DENNIS Conner enters the defence of the America's Cup in an unaccustomed role, as underdog. To become defender he must overcome the four-boat challenge of America's in a round-robin series lasting until April.

Conner's midnight-blue Stars & Stripes is his only yacht. Although his crew has vast experience — Conner himself has raced in every final since 1980 — the prickly, bear-like skipper knows that technology will triumph in sailing's most prestigious event.

"At this level there's not much difference between skippers and crews. We're in the ball park but the winner will be the guy with the fastest boat," Conner said on the eve of the first race.

He meets Defiant, skippered by Buddy Melges, aged 61, a professional sailor and boatbuilder from Wisconsin. An "Aw shucks" manner straight from a Bobsey Twins book fails to conceal Melges's talent and grit.

The America's leader, Bill Koch, aged 51, a billionaire, will helm Jayhawk in Wednesday's race against Conner. On past form, Melges has the quicker of the syndicate's two boats. "Defiant was faster than Jayhawk," Koch said. "But since the autumn refit we really don't

know." Two more boats are under construction in a \$50 million programme. Conner, by contrast, has a \$15 million budget and is struggling to meet his commitments.

"My budget is that I'm going to spend as much as I can raise," he replied testily to financial questions. Few observers — including Koch — doubt that Stars & Stripes, backed by so much skill and experience, will prove a very quick boat.

"Conner's designers produced a fast boat with their first shot. We're trying to get a fast boat in four tries," Koch said.

Yet the real goal is not to beat fellow-Americans but to develop a yacht and crew capable of beating the nine foreign teams, ranging from New Zealand to Russia, waiting for the chance to take the America's Cup home.

Even the patriarchal figure of Malin Burnham, backer of Dennis Conner in numerous Cups and chairman of the organising committee, is downbeat on the chances of his hometown keeping the auld mug.

"Although I still believe the odds are 5-2 against our defending the America's Cup, I'm not giving up and neither is Dennis," Burnham, one of San Diego's wealthiest businessmen, said.

Australians take clear lead in world series

Jervis Bay, Western Australia — Mitch Booth and John Forbes, the Australian champions, won the third race of the world championship for the Tornado catamaran class here yesterday to emerge as clear series leaders.

Booth and Forbes improved from fifth place on the first three legs to lead on the last two despite pressure from the French crew, Frederic Leleupre and Richard de Meo, who finished 25 seconds behind.

Giorgio Zucconi and Angelo Glisoni, of Italy, the defending world champion crew, finished third in front of the brothers Oliver and Rene Schwab, of Germany, who won the Tornado class in the pre-Olympic regatta at Barcelona last year.

RESULTS Third race: 1. M. Booth and J. Forbes (Aust) 2. F. Leleupre and R. de Meo (FR) 3. G. Zucconi and A. Glisoni (It) 4. O. and R. Schwab (Ger) 5. T. Wilkison and G. Brunet (US) 6. S. Hounsome and P. Karsch (Nett) 7. S. Stanojevic (Serb) 8. D. Monami (Bel) 9. E. Marinkovic (CZ) 10. R. Ratchford (CZ) 11. N. Pietrangeli (US) 12. L. Goldenshteyn (Peru) 13. M. Werder (US) 14. D. Nargiso (It) 15. C. Seccombe (Swe) 16. V. Jelic (Arg) 17. C. van Rensburg (SA) 18. S. B. S. S. Stele (Aus) 19. A. Onore (Sp) 20. M. Stich (Ger) 21. J. Sanchez (Sp) 22. G. Starford (SA) 23. H. Leconte (FR) 24. J. Courier (US) 25. R. Gilbert (FR) 26. P. Lundgren (Swe) 27. A. Manot (FR) 28. J. Stashberg (Aus) 29. T. Enqvist (Swe) 30. M. Larsson (Swe) 31. S. Matsuzaki (Jap) 32. G. Proie (Croatia) 33. G. Lavender (US) 34. A. Bostach (FR) 35. D. Nargiso (It) 36. C. Seccombe (Ger) 37. C. Seccombe (Swe) 38. L. Jansson (Swe) 39. V. Jelic (Arg) 40. C. van Rensburg (SA) 41. S. B. S. S. Stele (Aus) 42. A. Onore (Sp) 43. M. 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Glen Cherry set to reap benefit of chasing debut

GLEN Cherry, whose breeding and physique suggest a future 'over fences' career, is set to open his account in the Welshpool Novices Handicap Chase at Ludlow today.

Always regarded as a potential chaser by his trainer, Tim Forster, the son of Fairy Glen acquired himself well on his debut over fences when five-and-a-half lengths third to Mister Tickle at Stratford in December.

The strength of that contest stands up well. Mister Tickle had previously finished runner-up to the useful Springe Arch, second at Stratford, gave the form a timely boost when successful at Fontwell Park on Monday.

I expect the lightly-raced six-year-old to appreciate this time of three miles for the first time today, when the danger appears to be the Henricia Knight-ridden Badhar.

Formerly a good handicap hurdler, when trained by David Murray Smith, Badhar ran with plenty of promise last time out when third behind Real Class at Bangor. However, I feel the selection has considerable scope for improvement.

Forster can complete a double with Knighton Coober in the Oteley Novices Handicap Hurdle. The New Zealand-bred gelding has been in excellent form this season, winning twice and finishing third on as many outings.

Not surprisingly, the handicapper has allotted him with top weight, but his task will be greatly helped by the 7lb allowance claimed by Roger Parrant, an accomplished amateur rider.

However, Forster's hopes of a treble on the Shropshire course, with Eastshaw in Richards Castle Handicap Chase, could well be thwarted by Bonnet Bad. Since making a winning seasonal debut at Wincanton, Eastshaw has been a bit disappointing.

But Bonnet Bad, who will have his first outing of the

season, has improved. Last season, he was not disgraced when runner-up to the useful Golden Celtic at Fontwell and followed that with a comfortable defeat of Into The Red at Stratford.

Coughlans Run, however, can continue Forster's successful afternoon by taking the Royal Windsor Handicap Chase at Windsor at the expense of Evening Rain.

In the EBF National Hunt Novices Hurdle, I expect the former Jimmy Fitzgerald-trained Rocket Launcher to make a successful debut for David Elsworth. After his promising second behind Native Pride at Leicester, the young gelding was slightly disappointing when fifth behind the Jenny Pitman-trained Triple Whining at Leicester.

The Green Staff, who had the misfortune to be brought down last time out at Wincanton, can return to form in the Datchet Handicap Chase. Prior to that unfortunate incident he was a convincing seven-length winner from O'Reilly at Leicester.

Society Guest also appears to have the weights in his favour in the January Handicap Hurdle. At Wincanton, last time the High Line gelding escapes a penalty for his success as it was achieved in conditional jockeys' race.



Forster has a profitable day in prospect

Pipe records another century

MARTIN Pipe reached one hundred winners for the sixth successive season when Ambassador won the Deal Novices' Chase at Folkestone yesterday.

The century came a week earlier than last year, when Trefeyen Cone put him into three figures on January 21, but a month later than his fastest hundred, achieved on December 14, 1989.

Even so, Pipe is ahead of schedule as he chases last

season's record total of 230 winners. After Ambassador's two-length win under Peter Scudamore, bookmakers William Hill were prepared to offer no more than 5/4 on Pipe achieving a record total.

Richard Rowe, fined £250 as Jockey Club enquiry earlier in the day, was back in credit when Great Aspect gave the first season trainer his fourth win in the Roberts Handicap Hurdle.

The Henderson-trained

Calabrese was an easy winner of the Whitelaw Gold Cup. The winner, who lacks nothing except size, will miss the Cheltenham Festival in favour of the minor tracks.

R. K. Kim is continuing his recovery from serious illness, Beryl McCain, wife of trainer Ginger McCain, said yesterday.

The Jockey Club enquiry into Adrian Maguire's claim, postponed from yesterday, will be held next Tuesday.

Baker is likely to delay transfer of Tote

By RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE government's thoughts on the future ownership of the Tote are expected to be published this afternoon — and provide racing with a fresh incentive to set up a new democratically accountable body to run the sport.

Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, is likely to resist contemplating transferring

ownership of the pool betting organisation to racing until the various power-sharing plans, including the Jockey Club's proposals for a British Horseracing Board, produce positive results.

The Commons home affairs select committee recommended last July that racing should be allowed to run the Tote, but not before the sport had put its house in order.

The MPs stressed a new

democratically accountable organisation was needed to replace the Jockey Club and speak for and manage racing. If such an organisation was created it should be allowed to run the Tote.

Sir John Wheeler and his colleagues recommended in the short term that the Government should announce in principle its intention to vest the Tote in the racing industry.

However, Baker is expected to resist that suggestion, along with the idea that new appointments should be made to the board chaired by Lord Wyat of Wexford which would help achieve a racing-owned Tote.

Instead the home secretary is likely to welcome the general thrust of the select committee's report but insist nothing will be done to end the government's relationship with

the Tote until proposed changes to the way racing is run become clearer.

Not surprisingly, the government wants to see the precise colour of any new organisation set up to run racing before deciding the future status and ownership of the Tote.

The government response is likely to please Lord Wyat, whose chairmanship is due to end in April 1993.

3.00 RYAL WINDSOR HANDICAP CHASE (E2,427: 2m 5f) (7 runners)

1	155-157	COUGHLANS RUN 71 (F.G.S.) (Mrs G McFarlane) T Forster 13-11-10	H Davies	80
2	211-220	EVENING RAIN 6 (F.G.S.) (R Russell) R Hodges 6-10-13	A Tary	82
3	132-340	POPEHOUND 33 (S) (N Hadden) W Williams 6-10-11	M Richards	85
4	140-145	SOLAR CLOUD 11 (D.F.G.S.) (D Davies) M Chatter 10-10-10	Judy Davies	89
5	134-153	DEBRYMORE BOY 15 (S.G.) (C Pegg) J Fitch-Hayes 10-10-8	A Maguire	88
6	1-152P	AVONBURN 20 (F.G.) (H Spooner) M Robinson 8-10-7	I Lawrence	92
7	80/1P-1	PADDY'S DREAM 436 (F.G.) (A Grodin) Miss P O'Connor 12-10-0	B Powell	70

Long handicaps: Paddy's Dream 8-11

SETTING: 9-4 Evening Rain, 11-4 Coughlans Run, 5-1 Avonburn, 5-1 Debrymore Boy, 5-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

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Only two seeds for European championships

Britain's teams could be in the same group

FROM DAVID MILLER IN GOTHENBURG

ONLY two teams are to be seeded in the European championship draw here on Friday. Sweden, the hosts, in Stockholm and the Netherlands, the holders, in Gothenburg. Any of the other six, including England and Scotland, will come randomly out of the draw into either group.

Sweden, however, is planning to put the clock back 30 years, to the time when it staged a World Cup final tournament that was a joy to everyone who experienced it. The Swedish football federation is confident it can handle the security problems of even the worst possible potential quarter-final group: the Netherlands, Germany, England and Scotland.

The federation aims to make every match a three-day event: to welcome visiting spectators before and after a match that will not end merely with the final whistle, just as it was back in the halcyon days of 1958.

"We have an ambition to try to make everyone happy," Lennart Johansson, the Swedish president of Uefa, said here yesterday. "Young people have a special affinity to the game, and if they are coming here unable to afford hotels, we want to be able to find them somewhere to sleep, in school gymnasiums, to have a shower and cup of tea in the morning. When Sweden was elected to host the championships, I was

proud; in heaven. We have to make it a great event."

Friday's draw, however, could throw together in one group the elements that might stretch every resource of the Swedish police. Johansson warns that the organisation must not be fooled into thinking appearances encourage a casual approach.

"We have to be prepared to handle problems in an intelligent way," he says, "and not have weapons and water cannon provocatively displayed, as at the recent Belgium-Germany match in Brussels, which gives troublemakers encouragement for what they seek. Exposure."

"There is, too, the element of Nazism, even here in Sweden, which some of us experienced when we were young and only woke up too late. The police will show a friendly initial face, and deal severely only with those who break the law. The Swedish press has exaggerated the hooligan factor ever since we became hosts, but as I have said to them, we cannot just shut every stadium in the world."

The strategy between government, police and federation, planned over three years, will take a final shape after Friday's draw clarifies potential flashpoints. England against Scotland, which has not happened for three years, and the Netherlands

against Germany are seen as trouble spots. But Johansson is optimistic that both England and Scotland have self-evidently taken substantial steps to reduce the hooligan factor. The Swedish police are in close touch with counterparts in the Netherlands, Germany and Britain.

Ticketing is to be more strictly controlled than at any previous football tournament. Ticket-design is foolproof against forgery, Johansson says, and tickets will only be issued two weeks before a match to holders of a pre-paid invoice identifying their entitlement.

Travel-agent package deals are being kept to a minimum and to bypass the black market, every ticket sale has to be registered. Twenty per cent are going to visitors, 20 per cent to Uefa and their sponsors, 60 per cent to Sweden. The tickets returned by, say, the Commonwealth of Independent States, will be allocated not to random agents but to Swedish football clubs.

"We want the tournament to be for genuine followers, looking for a memorable experience," Johansson says. "Federations of countries that have previously been irresponsible in distribution, such as France and Germany, are being closely observed."

Sweden has generated four times the sponsorship income and five times the television income of 1988 in Germany.

Sinclair gets long ban

By CHRIS MOORE

FRANK Sinclair, the Chelsea full back, was yesterday suspended for nine matches by the Football Association for an incident involving the referee, Paul Alcock. Sinclair, aged 20 and on loan to West Bromwich Albion of the third division, clashed with Alcock when he awarded a last-minute penalty against West Bromwich in the League game at Exeter City on December 28.

Sinclair was sent off after what he claimed was an accidental collision, but a three-man FA commission, headed by the disciplinary committee chairman, Geoff Thompson, decided Sinclair was guilty of misconduct.

The nine-match ban includes the three-match automatic suspension he has already started for the dismissal. Sinclair must also pay a £600 fine and £200 costs.

Birmingham City were yesterday fined £10,000 by a Football League commission for playing an ineligible player in their third division home game with Peterborough United on September 14.

Ian Atkins, the former Birmingham captain, who returned to St. Andrew's last summer as first-team coach, played in the last 12 minutes of the match as a substitute. However, unknown to Terry Cooper, the new Birmingham manager, he had not been re-registered as a player with the League.

"His transfer was handled before I joined the club, so I am not aware of what happened at the time," Cooper said. "But thank goodness we have not been docked any points. If it had meant the difference between winning promotion or staying in the third division, the loss of points would have cost us far more than £10,000."

Howard Wilkinson, the manager of Leeds United, could face an FA disciplinary charge after being booked during Leeds's six-goal victory at Sheffield Wednesday on Sunday. Wilkinson was cautioned by the Middlesex referee, Philip Don, during the first half after a controversial penalty was awarded to Wednesday when the forward, Gordon Watson, fell inside the Leeds goalmouth. He made comments to the linesman, who then called Don to the touchline, where he booked Wilkinson.

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By RICHARD STREETON

NEIL Mallender, who has been called into the England party for the first Test match in Christchurch on Saturday, is by no means the first player to receive such an emergency summons.

Some 35 have been called up by England on tour during the past 105 years. The first instance, in 1886-7, arose when William Barnes, a Nottinghamshire batsman, damaged a hand when he aimed a punch at the Australian captain, Percy McDonnell.

McDonnell evaded the blow and Barnes's fist struck a wall. At a time when it took two months or so to reach Australia by sea, the touring team was fortunate that the

English-born Reginald Wood was playing for Victoria and he was included in the second Test at Sydney.

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Mallender: standing by

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most stricken England touring side in history. Before Cowdrey and Parfitt reached India, the injuries and stomach problems suffered by the touring players almost led to Henry Blofeld, the journalist and broadcaster, winning a cap.

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Jim Parks, who had been coaching in Trinidad, scored

183 against Barbados when he was embroiled by the 1959-60 England side after Peter May returned home early from the Caribbean. Parks scored 101 not out in the fifth Test at Port of Spain that followed. Among the most famous cases is one of the most recent. When Tony Pigott was called on, also in New Zealand, eight years ago, he postponed his wedding to play. England were dismissed for 82 and 93 and lost in 12 hours of play. Ken Palmer, now an umpire, was also in the right spot at the right time in South Africa in 1964-5.

Call for help, page 34

Coral backs Sunday racing

By RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

CORAL, one of the "big three" off-course bookmakers, yesterday broke ranks with its rivals by enthusiastically welcoming the Jockey Club's plans for Sunday racing.

Peter Sherlock, the company's chairman and chief executive, said: "It demonstrates the sort of initiative this industry desperately needs if it is to transform itself and advance into the future."

Although he recognised the potential problem of illegal betting, he insisted racgoers should be given the opportunity to test Sunday racing. If it proved popular, a strong case could be made to the government to allow betting shops to open on Sunday and have on-course betting.

Not for the first time, Sherlock's comments are in marked contrast to the negative reaction from Ladbrokes, William Hill and the Betting Office Licenses Association, the big bookmakers' trade body. They insist there should be no Sunday racing without a change in the betting laws.

Sherlock said: "I don't really understand why they play this negative role, except that they have always done so. They have said 'no Sunday racing without Sunday betting', but that is tackling the problem the wrong way round. We should get Sunday racing and then argue the case for Sunday betting. The chance of getting the two simultaneously is nil."

In the short term, Sherlock believes an expansion in credit and deposit account betting would help on Sunday.

He added: "Because we will have to provide early morning prices and there will be no opportunity for a starting price market to be formed, the Jockey Club has to make sure good quality racing is staged on Sunday, otherwise we will never get a decent book together. We don't want any matches or four-horse races where only one is trying."

Len Cowburn, the deputy chairman of William Hill, reflected the traditionalist view among the big High Street betting chains by regretting the lack of consultation before the Jockey Club announced its Sunday racing plans. Although he favoured deregulation, betting in "licensed shops and on course must coincide with any racing."

"I can't see there being crowds of people turning up on a race track without betting being available," he said. Betting was the key and without it Sunday racing would be "worse than useless."

Meanwhile, the race is heating up between different courses to stage the first full meeting on Sundays — with Newmarket emerging as a strong favourite.

Nick Lees, clerk of the course and chief executive, said yesterday: "We have already made it very dear to the Jockey Club we want to stage racing on Sundays. We feel we should be given a chance as we moved the running of the Town Plate from a Thursday to a Sunday in 1981 as a way of putting a toe in the door of Sunday racing. We would be most disappointed if we are not considered."

Pipe's century, page 33



High fives: New Zealand XI players celebrate the downfall of Gooch, the England cricket captain, after only three in the match at Nelson yesterday. Report, page 34. Photograph: Graham Morris

A first for New Zealand

Hinterstoder, Austria: Annelise Coberger yesterday became the first New Zealander to win an Alpine ski World Cup race, swooping to a slalom victory over a distinguished cast after finishing fourth in the first leg.

"This is unbelievable," a radiant Coberger said as she shrieked with joy and fell into the arms of her Czechoslovak-born trainer, Robert Zallmann, after producing the fastest second-leg time.

"But this kind of snow is ideal for me. I like hard, icy courses," Coberger, aged 20, said. "I was not nervous, but just determined to put all I had into it."

Coberger's time for two legs of 1min 44.59sec gave her victory by 0.12sec over Vreni Schneider, of Switzerland, a former World Cup overall champion who led after the first leg.

Schneider negotiated the two legs of a course with a vertical drop of 179 metres, marked with 64 and 60 gates respectively, in 1min 44.71sec.

Julie Parisien, of the United States, the winner of a giant slalom last season, finished third in 1min 44.90sec with the defending World Cup holder, Petra Kronberger, from Austria, who was second after the first leg, fourth in 1min 45.39sec.

Kronberger retains a slim lead over Schneider in the World Cup overall standings. "I'm so relieved it's all over, but I was really relaxed on the way down," Coberger said.

"After all, I had nothing to lose."

Coberger gave ample proof of her potential by placing third in a slalom in Schruns on Sunday.

The Christchurch skier,

who has been racing in Europe for six years, started 22nd in the first leg to take fourth place and then skied a flawless second leg that was nearly half a second faster than Schneider's.

Schneider, the 1988 Olympic slalom and giant slalom gold medal winner, said she was pleased with second place after dropping out of the slalom in Schruns on Sunday.

"Now Schruns is completely forgotten and I shall concentrate on Wednesday's [today's] giant slalom," she said.

"Coberger was a surprise, but she ran a perfect race."

Parisien, the winner last year of a giant slalom in Waterville, New Hampshire, said her third place was timely with the Winter Olympic Games coming up in Albertville next month.

"I got two fifth places this

season and I'm improving," she said.

Parisien said the hard, compact Baerensalm course was ideal.

"The hill is perfect, the snow is great and it was great for me," she said. "You could get a good grip on it. It was a good course for Coberger who, like myself, likes this kind of hard snow."

Yesterday's slalom replaced a race called off in Oberstaufen, Germany, earlier this month. (Reuters)

RESULTS: 1. A Coberger (NZ), 1min 44.59sec; 2. V Schneider (Swe), 1:44.71; 3. J Parisien (US), 1:44.90; 4. P Kronberger (Aust), 1:45.39; 5. D von Gantenberg (Swe), 1:45.51; 6. P Wilson (Swe), 1:46.04; 7. M Kralj (Slovenia), 1:46.08; 8. E Ester (Austria), 1:46.15; 9. K Bader (Austria), 1:46.22; 10. B Fernandez (Chile), 1:47.02.

Scott is dismissed by Cardiff

By A CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Scott, dismissed yesterday as manager of Cardiff rugby union club, has become the latest in a growing list of off-the-field casualties in Welsh rugby.

The former captain of England, who had been in the job two seasons, was dismissed after the club committee had taken into account a letter from Cardiff's captain, David Evans, critical of Scott's role and function. Evans suggested Scott's "laid-back attitude" and the fact that the players found it hard to get on with him were sufficient reasons for his departure.

Scott's dismissal is the latest incident in bitter wranglings at the club. A month ago Alan Phillips resigned as coach and a series of poor results since have plunged Cardiff to the lower

reaches of the Heineken League.

Scott says he is going to delay any comment or reaction until after he thinks things over. "If things go wrong, there's always a danger someone will become a scapegoat," he said. "When a finger is pointed, it's easy to step at one place."

"All I hope is that this decision to release me is done for the best interests of the club. They have talked about the structure not being right. We must wait and see. I don't know what I'm going to do now."

"I used to ask myself why so few ex-players took up senior posts in clubs when they finished playing. Maybe I know that answer now."

Cardiff insist the dismissal of Scott was not a personality issue. "We have ended the position of team manager,

that's all," the club secretary, John Nelson, said. "John remains as a member of the club committee."

"The reason for the termination of the job is that the committee are disappointed with performances this season and that the position of team manager hasn't assisted the results."

"There are a number of clubs who have tried team managers and this system hasn't worked."

"Cardiff is one of those clubs where the captain has always been a very important person and we want to return to that system. Quite simply we want to improve performances on the field."

□ The World Cup has not only created a new audience for rugby union, it has also added a cultural element on the eve of the five nations' championship art lovers have

the chance to see the game depicted at an exhibition of paintings by the Surrey artist, Gareth Ball, which is being staged until January 24 at the Rugby Club in London's Hallam Street.

Ball's enthusiasm for the game, sufficient for him to turn out on the wing as a student at art college, was revived by an invitation to make a painting of a match between Llanelli and Swansea last year. That was extended to the World Cup, during which he watched three matches live and constructed paintings of others from video recordings.

"To me rugby is fascinating because of the abstraction of figures in scrums and at rucks," Ball, who lives in Farnham, said. "It has a balletic quality, although the players themselves may not realise it."

Somerset bowler is the latest in a long line

By RICHARD STREETON

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